

EMLYN HUGHES *'My toughest season'*

SHOOT!

25p

9th MAY,
1981

**Eire robbed of
World Cup glory**

**Second Division
No-hoppers**

Transfer Toppers

Coventry's Mark Hateley causes problems for Liverpool defenders Phil Thompson (left) and Alan Kennedy.

**How Paul Cooper
became
a top'keeper**

**Selective Leisure
All Sports holidays
to be won!**

SOMEONE once said that, as in life, the only thing certain in football is uncertainty.

But the nearest to certainty this season was finally confirmed in mid-April when West Ham — table-toppers almost all the time, and a massive ten points ahead of their nearest challengers, regained the First Division status they lost three years earlier.

And, of course, they did it in style by beating Grimsby 5-1 away.

And, other things apart, their brave and classy fight in taking mighty Liverpool to a replay in the League Cup Final — trying to add to the F.A. Cup success achieved the previous campaign — emphatically endorsed their claim to stay up . . . and prosper.

But while The Hammers were

sailing along merrily, there's been a real dog-fight for the right to go up with them.

With only a few weeks of the season left, it was still a case of perming almost any two from about eight.

Not because they were all so worthy to accompany West Ham — but simply because they were the best of the rest in an otherwise very mediocre Division Two.

Notts County have been fighting gallantly to get out of the shadows of neighbouring Forest — and

success by go-ahead Grimsby would write their name in the record-books by becoming the first side ever to rise from Fourth Division to First in three successive seasons.

But could they sustain the pressures, not to mention the cost, of surviving without worry up top?

Sheffield Wednesday and Chelsea have superb First Division standard grounds but, again, could they take it . . . and stay?

Blackburn, Derby, Q.P.R., Swansea, and plucky Cambridge — a League side of only a decade's standing — have also turned it on at times . . . but turned it off again rather more often.

Possibly Luton could be the best bet in the survival stakes — often providing football as workmanlike as entertaining — but low gates and modest resources would make even theirs a dour struggle.

The Three-Up/Three-Down proposal, adopted for the 1973/74 season, was intended to create more interest and more incentive for more clubs.

Instead of which it has, in the main, only served to emphasise the wide gap which exists between the First and Second Divisions.

Alongside are listed those clubs who have benefited from the promotion ruling in the completed seasons since — from which it will

THIS list shows the fate in the following seasons of clubs promoted from the Second Division from the time the controversial Three-Up/Three-Down system was introduced in 1973-74 to 1979-80 inclusive. (The first figure indicates the Division; the second, the season's final placing.)

1973-74: MIDDLESBROUGH (2-1; 1-7; 1-13; 1-12; 1-14; 1-12; 1-9).
LUTON (2-2; 1-20; 2-7; 2-6; 2-13; 2-18; 2-6).
CARLISLE (2-3; 1-22; 2-19; 2-20; 3-13; 3-6; 3-6).



PROMOTION CAN MEAN RELEGATION!

Delight at Selhurst Park (below) as Palace gain promotion in 1979, but new boss Dario Gradi (left) has had to face up to relegation this season.



heading for Division One

SHOOT view!

1974-75: MANCHESTER UNITED (2-1; 1-3; 1-6; 1-10; 1-9; 1-2).
ASTON VILLA (2-2; 1-16; 1-4; 1-8; 1-8; 1-7).
NORWICH (2-3; 1-10; 1-16; 1-13; 1-16; 1-12).

1975-76: SUNDERLAND (2-1; 1-20; 2-6; 2-4; 2-2).
BRISTOL CITY (2-2; 1-18; 1-17; 1-13; 1-20).
WEST BROMWICH (2-3; 1-7; 1-6; 1-3; 1-10).

1976-77: WOLVES (2-1; 1-15; 1-18; 1-6).

CHELSEA (2-2; 1-16; 1-22; 2-4).
FOREST (2-3; 1-1; 1-2; 1-5).

1977-78: BOLTON (2-1; 1-17; 1-22).
SOUTHAMPTON (2-2; 1-14; 1-8).
TOTTENHAM (2-3; 1-11; 1-14).

1978-79: CRYSTAL PALACE (2-1; 1-13).
BRIGHTON (2-2; 1-16).
STOKE (2-3; 1-18).

1979-80: LEICESTER, SUNDERLAND, and BIRMINGHAM promoted — but all three have struggled at least part of this season.

Sheffield Wednesday (stripes) have the resources but perhaps not the team to survive in the First Division.

be seen that, with few obvious exceptions like Forest, not that much comfort can be drawn.

Forest, of course, really hit the jackpot. After just scraping into the third promotion spot in 1976-77, they became League Champions 12 months later, followed-up with the European Cup and other trophies and have never looked back.

But of the other promoted clubs during this period, Chelsea, Luton, Bolton and Bristol City have slipped down again — while the latter may well match luckless Carlisle United by dropping a stage

further into the Third Division.

And, towards the end of this season, it can be noted that the wrong end of the First Division table is heavily populated with clubs which have come up in the last half-dozen years.

Crystal Palace — promoted the season before last — were irrevocably doomed to the drop with a month of the season to run.

Leicester and Sunderland, promoted only last May, have also struggled down in the dumps — while it took some time for Birmingham to overcome a dodgy spell. Down there with them have been Brighton (promoted 1979), and Norwich (1975).

And, of course, Bristol City who came up to the First Division as recently as 1976, have this season been struggling desperately to avoid a drop not just to the Second, but to the Third.

Mixed Blessing

So, all in all, in the present set-up, promotion can be a mixed blessing, for gates (dwindling anyway) show that a successful Second Division side can normally come off quite a bit better in the balance-sheet than a relegation-haunted First Division outfit.

No club is going to admit openly that they fear promotion — but additional expenses, allied to falling revenue, can cause considerable problems to those with limited resources.

Even West Ham, true First Division material and with the resources to back it, may have to think about summer signings to keep up their momentum.

Such is the growing gap between the two top English Divisions nowadays — instanced by the calamitous fall from grace of Carlisle and, a few years earlier, of Northampton. And the drop didn't just stop at one.

Both sadly proving that it's one thing to hit the League's dizzy heights but, without the financial and other essential back-up, quite another to maintain it up there.

West Ham (white shorts) should avoid a struggle in the First Division, but Blackburn won't find it so easy.

SO much for the so-called "gentlemen's agreement" that chairmen should be more sensitive in their treatment of managers.

In sacking Ken Knighton and his assistant Frank Clark, Sunderland prove there is no room for sentiment or honourable pledges in the often cut-throat world of professional football.

The League's chairmen all nodded their approval at a meeting earlier this season when it was decided they would conduct their affairs in a more dignified manner.

What happened? A few weeks after the summit Alan Ball left Blackpool, and now Knighton has been axed.

Knighton's crime is hard to comprehend. One can only assume that Thomas Cowie, chairman of Sunderland, had his eyes set on winning the First Division Championship. Perhaps he would have settled for the F.A. Cup or the League Cup. On the other hand, he might have expected Sunderland to win a place in European competition next season.

He was clearly hungry for success and totally dissatisfied with Ken Knighton's performance in taking the club into the First Division at the end of last season, and consolidating their position with the best clubs in the country since last August.

The Roker Park club were 17th in the First Division on the day Knighton was sacked. They were knocked out of both Cups in the early stages.

No miracles, yet a season in which Knighton could have been pleased with his club's performances bearing in mind the small purse he was given to spend on players.

Foolishly

Mr Cowie and his board will argue that the money Knighton was given was spent foolishly. They would quote the failure of the Argentinian Claudio Marangoni, who cost £325,000. Tom Ritchie, a £200,000 striker from Bristol City, scored his first goal after Knighton's departure, whilst Ian Bowyer had produced workmanlike performances since his £250,000 transfer from Nottingham Forest before injury ended his season.

Ken Knighton's parting words are worth considering: "My staff and I have worked under a cloud for six months.

"After months of this it had finally got through to the players. They see headlines in newspapers about me getting the sack — sometimes on the day of the match — and it is not the ideal way to prepare for a game."

Typical of the sour relationship between ex-manager and chairman was the Christmas Affair. Knighton told the Press that he was paying the hotel bill for the team for a game over Christmas because the club would not finance it. Cowie retorted that Knighton could well afford the hotel bill since he was getting more than £30,000 a year.



GUNN FIRES A WARNING

CLIFTONVILLE full-back Con Davey has arranged an attractive testimonial fixture featuring representative selections from Northern Ireland and Eire, at Newry Showgrounds, on Saturday, May 23rd.

Granted a benefit game by Glenavon before he joined Cliftonville, Davey, who actually hails from the Newry area, hopes to have current Irish internationals Pat Jennings, Gerry Armstrong, Martin O'Neill and Terry Cochrane in his "Northern Ireland" line-up. Incidentally, seasoned campaigner Con, who also had senior spells with Coleraine and Dundalk, is a son of ex-Portsmouth and Ireland striker Hugh Davey, and older brothers, Pat and Terry, also saw top-level action in their time.

SHOOT/ENGLAND

TANGO FOOTBALLS

COMPETITION RESULT

IN our Frido-Tango Footballs competition in January 10th issue, we invited readers to answer three questions about the England football team. The correct answers were, 1—Paul Mariner; 2—Five caps; 3—Brazil.

Having considered all entries the judges decided that the senders of the 100 nearest correct entries, with age taken into account, came from the readers listed below. Each wins a Frido England Tango football.

Stuart Adshead, Dagenham; Patrick Allison, Minster; Carl Allum, Berkhamstead; Richard Anderson, Eccles; Alan Armstrong, Stanley; Lee Boardman, Stockport; Bryan Buchus, Lancing; Jim Burgess, Belfast; Denis Byrne, Co. Donegal; Darren Challenger, Bolton; A. Cockhill, Bowdon; David Coleman, Spalding; Trevor Collins, Burgess Hill; Neil Cooper, Trowbridge; Alan Cox, Darlington; Danny Cox, Romford; Andrew Dalbridge, Newquay; Paul Derham, Plymouth; Agostino Difalco, Northwood; Simon Edwards, Chichester; Stephen Evans, Lower Brailles; Stephen Fletcher, Benfleet; Robert Frapwell, Stroud; David Foster, Leyland; Nicholas Goddard, Doncaster; Ian Gough, Birmingham; Gareth Gray, Grimsargh; David Hagen, Blaydon; Iain Halewood, Liverpool; William Hart, Chipping Camden; Anthony Hartup, Uckfield; Anthony Hatch, Warrington; David Heywood, Sutton; Derek Hill, Manchester; Gary Hill, Stoke on Trent; Tim Himsforth, Doncaster; Simon Holmes, Plymouth; Ian Hugill, Blackpool; Timothy Hutchinson, Haddenham; Paul Jacobs, Headington; Anne Jakob, Kingston; Richard Jermy, Norwich; David Johns, Beaworthy; Paul Johnson, Stoke on Trent; Sean Kennedy, Worthing; Ian Kennett, Hythe; Andrew Lawrence, Barton upon Humber; Brendan Lawton, Lismore; Ian Lewis, Burton Latimer; Peter Lock, Brighton; Sean Lockhead, Killearn; Rodney Loughlin, Castlederg; David Mann, Market Drayton; Eric McConnell, Canterbury; Francis McLaughlin, Luton; John Murray, Hexham; Bret Newsham, Haddenham; Amanda Nunn, Ipswich; Matthew Nunn, Birmingham; Paul O'Neill, London SE20; Paula Osmond, Whitchurch; Malcolm Panks, Norwich; Michelle Pearson, Hartlepool; Gary Phillips, Umberleigh; Paul Phillips, Enfield; Darren Philips, Swanscombe; Stephen Pike, Bishop's Stortford; Richard Preston, Wolverhampton; David Raw, Hawes; Chris Richardson, Burscough; Alison Roberts, Anglesey; David Robins, Torrington; Paul Seddon, Coventry; Charles Sharpe, Lancing; Peter Shevlin, London SW19; Michael Simon, Barrow on Humber; Duncan Smith, Manchester; Frank Smith, Hoddesdon; Michael Sparshott, Southampton; Neil Stephens, St Austell; Paul Stephens, St Austell; J. Swatton, Middlessex; Anne Terry, S. Brent; Derek Thirlaway, Gateshead; Ryan Trow, Eggington; Mark Wadlow, Uxbridge; Nicholas Walsler, Ilkeston; Richard Walters, Porthcawl; Michael Weale, Hill Head; Paul West, Aldershot; Nicholas Whigham, Bruton; Brian Whitehorn, Ebbw Vale; Tony Wickett, Waltham Abbey; Glenn Williams, Ilford; Langdon Williams, Bodmin; Marion Williams, Wrexham; Neil Williams, Southampton; Allan Woodcock, Rotherham; Colin Woodward, Aston on Trent; Mark Woodward, Fife.

BRYN Gunn, Nottingham Forest's 22-year-old defender, could be leaving the club at the end of the season.

He was dropped to the reserves after a long run in the first team, and the arrival of Norwegian international defender Jan Einar Aas has done nothing to brighten Gunn's hopes of a comeback.

He broke into the team earlier this season when Larry Lloyd and David Needham were injured. He proved his versatility when slotting into Viv Anderson's right-back berth on the England's man's absence through injury.

Brian Clough will not let Gunn go without a fight to retain his services, for he sees the highly rated youngster as cover for most defensive positions.

Whether Gunn has the patience to await his chance at the City Ground remains to be seen. Perhaps he has a powerful argument having played more than 20 first team games this season.

Daniel's amazing recovery

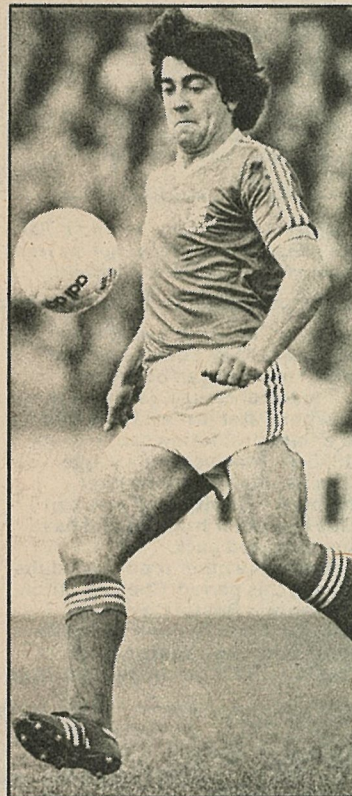


DETERMINED Wolves midfielder man Peter Daniel is out to break new records with the speed of his recovery from a broken leg.

He is already doing light exercise without putting weight on the leg, only a few weeks after breaking it in the match with Aston Villa.

John Richards said: "We all felt sick for Peter when he learned the leg was broken, for when he went off, we didn't think it was anything particularly serious. He actually tried to play on for a bit.

"But he has let it be known he does not want our sympathy. He says he will be back in action before we have missed him."



FORMER Hibs and Airdrie centre-half Jim Black, who at 38 is still playing for Second Division Stenhousemuir, will be the Stirlingshire side's new manager next season. Black has replaced Harry Glasgow who has resigned after eight years at Ochilview, but will be player-manager until the end of the season. Glasgow resigned because his job as an engineering foreman was giving him less and less time to devote to football.

Where were they?

THIRTY managers and players were invited to attend the launch of a new F.A. backed book **WE WON THE CUP**. How many turned up?

Answer: one... and he is one of the oldest surviving players.

Jack Swan, who appeared for Huddersfield against Aston Villa in the 1919-20 Final, was there even though he now walks with the aid of a walking stick.

Jack, 89 on July 19, can still show today's professionals a thing or two when it comes to manners.

GORDON COWANS wants to remain Aston Villa's penalty taker, despite his costly miss against Tottenham.

"My confidence is still there," he says.

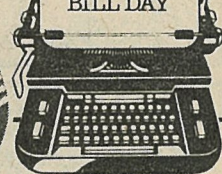
Cowans admits to a lapse of concentration which resulted in his blunder at White Hart Lane.

"I normally hit the ball to the goalkeeper's left. But as I started my run up to the ball I saw the Spurs 'keeper move to his left, so I decided to change my direction."

If Cowans is relieved of his duties, Allan Evans would welcome a reprieve. He missed a spot-kick against Leeds last season and promptly lost the job.

NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY



AIRDRIE players are off for a week in the sun next month. On May 10 they will fly from Glasgow Airport to Ibiza in the Mediterranean, the reward for retaining their place in the Premier League. Says skipper Sandy Clark: "Our success this season has been due to team spirit at Broomfield. All the boys played for each other and we hope to be an even better team next season."

CLOUGH'S TURNABOUT

THE main reason why Brian Clough is so successful is that no one really knows him... or what to expect.

He certainly is a man of contradictions. Only last autumn he was writing in a national newspaper that we should kick television out of football. The Forest boss has even banned T.V. and radio from the City Ground at times.

With this in mind, it was strange to see Cloughie assisting Brian Moore for the League Cup Final replay at Villa Park.

After all, the low attendance was due to live T.V. coverage of the match.

ASTON VILLA manager Ron Saunders is angry at suggestions that the club has forgotten Brian Little, Villa's ex-England striker who was forced to retire from the game with knee trouble.

"Aston Villa has always looked after its players," said Saunders, "and this lad has had a hard time. We will do everything we can to see he is alright."

As yet, no date for a testimonial has been set.

SHOOT/BECKENBAUER COMPETITION RESULT

IN our Beckenbauer competition in February, we asked you three questions about Franz Beckenbauer. The correct answers were: 1—Der Kaiser; 2—Bayern Munich; 3—New York Cosmos.

The senders of the eight entries, judged to be nearest, with age taken into account, each win a Hamburger SV shirt personally autographed by Franz Beckenbauer. They are: David Ashton, Cirencester; Robert Clark, Luddington; Sarah Cook, West Crawley; Lawrence Hicks, Reading; Mark Townner, Liverpool; Ian Tyler, Boston; Ian Verdin, Kirkby; Mark Wilson, Milton Keynes.

ALBION STAR FOR SALE

ALLY ROBERTSON, West Bromwich Albion's Scottish international defender, went back into the shop window against Aston Villa a few weeks ago.

He is still transfer listed and feels that the fee being demanded by the Albion is far too high.

Robertson, a stalwart of the Albion defence for several seasons, said: "I feel that the reported fee of £400,000 is far too much in the present economic climate."

"The transfer market is also dead at the moment and it's obvious that I've got to wait until the summer months before any activity takes place."

The Doc was right

LAST summer Clive Allen joined Arsenal in a blaze of publicity. The former Q.P.R. striker made even more sensational headlines when he moved to Crystal Palace without ever kicking a competitive ball for The Gunners. Two £1 million transfers in the space of weeks.

At roughly the same time Paul Goddard signed for West Ham. Allen's one-time partner-in-goals at Rangers cost a mere £800,000.

I remember Tommy Docherty, who gave the pair their chance at Rangers, telling me that while Allen may be the player in the spotlight, in his view it was Goddard who would eventually be the bigger star.

It's probably the last thing on John Lyall's mind... but if he sold Goddard he wouldn't lose a penny. Allen, meanwhile, is wondering where he'll be playing next season.

So far, The Doc's been proved correct.

THE Football Association have authorised the official replica F.A. Challenge Cup in solid sterling silver to commemorate this year's 100th F.A. Challenge Cup Competition. No more than 2,500 silver trophies have been authorised for this special occasion.

This unique collector's piece is available exclusively from the Heritage Club, 407 Holloway Road, London N7. The price is £495.

Why Wicks will leave

IF Queens Park Rangers fail to win promotion, big defender Steve Wicks will carry out a promise he didn't want to make.

Wicks has said he will ask for a transfer if Rangers slip up. He says its best for his future but it will still upset him.

Honest Wicks says: "I've been here a couple of seasons. I like it here, I get on well with the players but I want to play in the First Division."

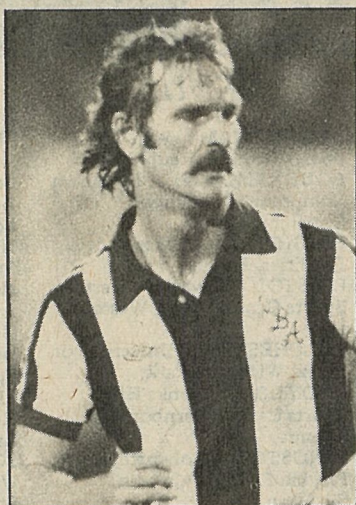
"I don't want to leave a manager like Terry Venables. He's done wonders for the club since he's been here and he has also improved my game."

"If he had come six matches earlier, then it might have been easier for us."

"I've played for England Under 21's and I want to play international football again. I stop and think 'I'm 24'. I'd like the chance to play for my country. I want to be involved."

Wicks has been an outstanding performer for Rangers this year. There can't be many better central defenders in the country.

The First Division is the place for Wicks to display those talents — with or without Rangers.



PAUL Walsh, the Charlton forward rated just about the most promising youngster in the capital, can't wait for the end of the season. Not because he could be celebrating promotion to Division Two, but he'll have a chance to see his heroes — Brazil.

Paul was only seven when Pele's Brazil won the Mexico World Cup in 1970. Yet from what he's seen and heard that Brazilian side was something special. Paul is in the process of buying himself a video so he can watch film of the '70 stars... and he plans a trip to Wembley on May 12th to see the present day Brazil take on England.

BOB'S BACK SOON

RAITH ROVERS' promotion hopes were jolted when skipper Bobby Ford broke his ankle.

The injury was the result of a mishap at Liberton High School, Edinburgh, where Bobby is employed as a physical education teacher. He was taking an active part in a basketball game, and accidentally went over on his ankle.

Bobby will make his come-back as a Premier League player at the start of next season.

Briefly...

● Cyrille Regis went along to John Wile's testimonial dinner and walked away with a raffle prize valued at £970.

He was among a gathering of 280 people which raised £2,000 for the West Bromwich Albion skipper's testimonial.

Cyrille took first prize which was a limited edition Capo di Monte.

● At exactly the same moment on the same day recently, Howard Kendall and Graham Turner stepped out on pitches 200 miles apart to share a landmark: 600 League games apiece.

The rival Second Division player-managers of Blackburn Rovers and Shrewsbury Town led their sides against Notts County and Cardiff City showing the same commitment as when they launched their first team careers in the early 1960's... and have no intention yet of calling it a day!

● Bournemouth are expecting great things from 19-year-old centre-half Paul Compton.

The £10,000 signing from Trowbridge had a spell with Cardiff City as a youngster and captained Gloucestershire as a schoolboy and was an England Youth Trialist.

● Leeds United have announced a major sponsorship deal for next season with R.F. Winder Ltd., the Leeds-based electrical engineers, contractors and manufacturers.

The company's involvement at Elland Road next season will include advertising on the United shirts.

● Simon Bullock, 18-year-old striker with Halifax, comes from good football stock. His two uncles, Mick and Peter, were both League players.

'Don't dump me'

MICK COOP could be on the move from Coventry at the end of the season. His two-year contract expires then. He has played more than 420 first team games for the First Division club.

He dreads being dumped on soccer's scrap-heap. So would most professionals after 18 years at one club.



DID YOU KNOW...

That League Cup Final referee Clive Thomas was once on Norwich City's books?

YOU NEED GLASSES REF. Ipswich Town goalkeeper Paul Cooper appears to be questioning referee Pat Partridge's decision in the F.A. Cup Semi-Final against Manchester City.



Dishier than saintly Lawrie

JUDGING by the size of my mailbag, a great number of soccer fans disagree with the verdict that Lawrie McMenemy is "Head of the Year".

The Southampton manager cuddled-up to actress Felicity Kendall (News Desk April 4th) after winning an award from the National Hairdressers' Federation for possessing an immaculate head of hair.

"What about Graham Rix, Kevin Keegan, Terry McDermott and Trevor Brooking?" pleads Bridget Norris. Julie Gray, of Edinburgh, reckons that Frank Liddell's immaculate locks take some beating when he turns out for Hearts.

"Another player I rate is Willie Donachie" says Julie.

But Lawrie wins Mrs Joan Maisland's vote as the "dishiest" manager in football.

"Those lovely eyes of his" swoons the housewife from Wilmslow, Cheshire. Mrs Maisland tells me that Peter Barnes' "lovely blond bob" sends her into ecstasies.

Her other favourite crop belongs to Steve Mackenzie (pictured) "a great hunk of a man with lovely dark wavy hair, lovely eyes and teeth too."

● Who possesses the untidiest head of hair? Your votes please.

SOUTHEND have already achieved their target of promotion and are set to raise £13,000 to provide a life-saving kidney machine for a five-year-old youngster.

The players have been holding darts matches throughout the season to raise cash for a fund for the little boy, who lives locally. They have also held auctions of their kit and mementoes and quiz evenings.

Striker Derek Spence says: "What we are doing helps to balance the picture many people have of footballers."

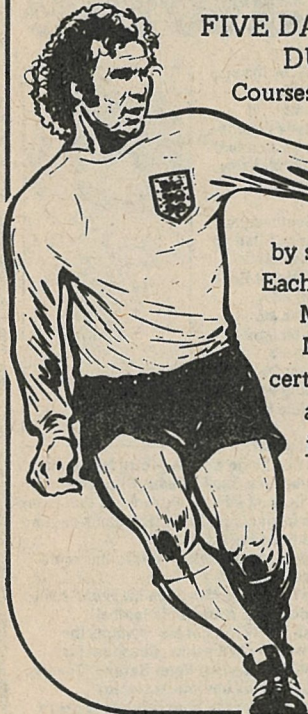
Ps: Derek has finally discovered why he did not win any Northern Ireland caps when he was out in Greece a couple of seasons ago. The Irish FA kept sending telegrams calling him up for duty — but to A.E.K. of Athens. Spence played for their rivals, Olympiakos.

SHOOT/SOUTHAMPTON COMPETITION RESULT

IN our Southampton F.C. Competition in February, readers were asked three questions about that club. The correct answers were: 1 — Ted Bates; 2 — Manchester United; 3 — Charlie George. Senders of the five neatest correct entries, with age taken into account, were Ian Copping, Portsmouth; Darren Gates, Portlaid; Adam Pollard, Weston-super-Mare; Matthew Walker, Chinnor; and Neil Williams, Southampton. Each wins a place at one of Southampton F.C.'s soccer camps, where they will receive coaching from the Southampton players, including Kevin Keegan and the club's coaching staff. Their prize also includes Saints replica playing kit and a pair of Patrick football boots.

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VENUES

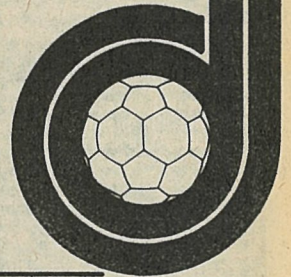
BIRMINGHAM – West Hills Sports Ground, Redhill Road.
BOURNEMOUTH – Twynham Comprehensive School, Christchurch.
BRIGHTON – Falmer Sports Facilities, Falmer.
BRISTOL – Lawrence Weston Sports Ground, King Weston Lane.
COLCHESTER – University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park.
CROYDON – Monks Hill Sports Centre, Farnborough Avenue.
KINGSTON – Tolworth Court Playing Fields, Tolworth, Surbiton.
LEEDS – John Smeaton Sports Complex, Barwick Road.

LIVERPOOL – Sparrow Hall Playing Fields, Aintree.
LONDON (EAST) – Forest School, Snarebrook, E18.
LONDON (NORTH) – Mill Hill School, Mill Hill, NW7.
NEWCASTLE – Longbenton Sports Ground, Coach Lane.
NORWICH – University of East Anglia, Colney Road Sports Ground.
NOTTINGHAM – Clifton Sports Ground, University Park.
PLYMOUTH – Polytechnic Recreation Centre, Emesette Lane.
SOUTHAMPTON – New Wellington Sports Ground, Stoneham Lane.
SOUTHEND – Francis Sports Ground, Eastern Avenue.

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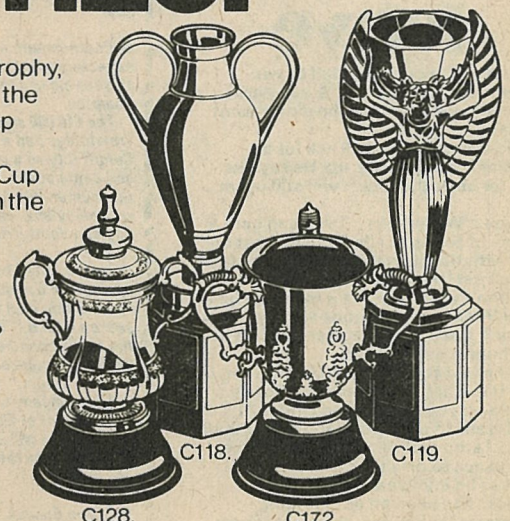
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ONE of my biggest shocks of the season was being left out of the team for the derby game against West Brom at Villa Park.

The boss, Ron Saunders, told me he wanted to give me a rest because he considered I was physically tired. "I don't want you to burn yourself out, Gary," he said.

I admit I had been feeling the effects of a long, tough season a few weeks earlier but had shaken that off.

The manager's decision to drop me for such a vital match with the Championship so near was a shattering blow. I desperately wanted to be out there with the boys battling alongside them.

Naturally, I accepted the decision and wished my replacement David Geddis all the best.

As you know, Villa won the game thanks to a late goal by Peter Withe, but it wasn't a particularly good Villa performance.

Another one I don't want to miss is this Saturday's (May 2nd) last League match of the season at Arsenal.

The Gunners are similar in many respects to Aston Villa. We're both world famous clubs with lots of glamour and tradition. We also play in a similar 4-4-2 style.

Most players have a respect for

Arsenal and enjoy visiting the marble halls of Highbury. But the stadium has bad memories for me.

I played there for Villa three years ago in the F.A. Youth Cup Final against Crystal Palace. The game was a scrappy affair and Villa lost 1-0.

The Final was staged at Highbury because it had been scheduled for a neutral ground that season and Palace won the toss for choice of venue.

Graham Rix has great skills and is always prepared to run at defenders. Alan Sunderland and Frank Stapleton work well up front, while David O'Leary is the best central defender in Europe. And that's no disrespect to anyone at Villa.

Dave is deceptively fast and skilful for a player in his position. You get the impression he'd be just as effective as a midfielder.

I'm also a great Kenny Sansom fan. He's fast, tackles hard, recovers

I must take Villa to win, especially if the game is the Championship decider. It won't be easy for us because Arsenal will be just as determined to qualify for a place in the UEFA Cup.

Saturday's aren't the same for me lately. Whenever I could I sat down and relaxed watching my favourite programme 'Tiswas'. Now they've taken it off I don't know what to do with myself before matches.

I'll have to settle for BBC Radio One and taking my dog Sam for a walk.

Before I close, a reader asks if I would take over in goal if Jimmy Rimmer was injured.

Replace

No I wouldn't, although I did enjoy playing in goal at school and throwing myself around in the mud.

Ken McNaught would replace Jimmy if he was to receive an unfortunate injury. He's always fancied himself as a 'keeper and grabs the gloves whenever he can in training. Come to think of it, I haven't scored against him yet!

By the way I'd like to thank SHOOT readers for voting me into second place in this year's most Exciting English Player of the Year award. Congratulations to Kenny Dalglish on his third consecutive English award.

Brian Wilson

Gary Shaw

'Villa like Arsenal'

Last season's First Division clash at Highbury was another disaster for Villa... we were beaten 3-1.

This season's game at Villa Park was much more exciting. Arsenal were very positive that afternoon and came looking for a win.

The result was in fact a 1-1 draw, Tony Morley scored for Villa.

Although Arsenal played well in that match they haven't really enjoyed the best of seasons by their standards.

They've struggled in midfield, missing the flair, control and class of Liam Brady more than they'll admit.

Critics say Arsenal rarely thrill the fans, but they have players who excite me.

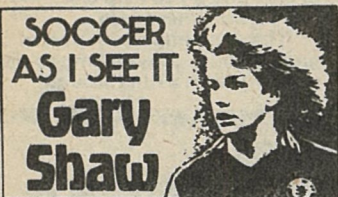
well and supports the attack by his running down the flanks.

Arsenal aren't my favourite London club, though. I've always fancied Spurs. I like their adventurous, attacking style.

I enjoyed playing at White Hart Lane because of the atmosphere generated by the fans who were so close to the pitch.

It was strange going there this season with that wide open space where the old stand used to be. As you know the club have pulled it down and are in the process of building a brand new one. Hope it's ready for next season.

None of those problems at Highbury, one of the finest stadiums in football.



Tony Morley scores in Villa's 1-1 home draw with Arsenal.



THEY say you have to be mad to be a goalkeeper. And not just because he has to stand and take endless punishment as a high cross flies in and both he and three tough rivals want it, but because the whole future of his team lies in his hands.

If a striker makes a mistake it's hard luck and back to square one with probably another chance looming. But if a goalkeeper misses a save it could be the mistake that costs his team the match . . . a Championship . . . or a Cup Final.

But in Britain we are blessed with a dozen or so 'keepers who can be thrown in at the deep end of any big match or major international and emerge as king of the penalty-box.

And one man said to have a pair of the

safest hands in the country is Paul Cooper, Ipswich Town's spring-heeled star and recently voted Player of the Year by the club's supporters.

In the first of this series Paul will be giving an insight into a 'keeper's role — his attitude and how he deals with troublesome situations.

It's a job that means more than standing on the six-yard line and trying to stop everything blasted at him.

"No outfield player envies my job," said Paul. "But I find it easy, and it gets easier as I get older and more experienced."

Paul, at Ipswich for seven of his 27 years, had a spell at Shrewsbury Town and then switched to Birmingham before he joined the title chasers.

As a 'keeper often left on his own patch of turf when the Ipswich machine goes on the rampage, Paul analyses and examines his team and the opposition's tactics.

"I can look at their attacking play, their systems, tactics and breaks and try to help to counter them from where I am.

"That's an important part of goalkeeping . . . watching to pick up anyone on a run through,

The first of a fascinating five-part series in which top stars talk about their specialised roles and other players they most admire.

No. 1 'How I by PAUL COOPER

making sure we are covered and if there is anybody on an overlap.

"From where I stand I can see their weaknesses and strengths and try to convey to the rest of my team, what I want them to do and what our defence needs to do.

"The rest of the team haven't the time to see and examine the opposition like I can from my place between the posts.

"I have a little trick to keep myself alert when I'm stuck on my own with the lads upfield — I talk to myself. It helps to keep my concentration going.

CAPTAIN'S ROLE

"It's a hard job to stay in control when you get the urge to rush into the action and get them to do what I've been willing them to do.

"At set pieces, corners and

Cooper gathers safely under pressure from Liverpool striker Ian Rush





Beaten from the spot by Forest's John Robertson

mind up for him.

If the striker is under control, then Paul will let him worry. Flying out at him will leave it wide open. But it all happens so fast there's no time to make a decision.

Every 'keeper is different. There is a basic goalkeeping style and how successful it is depends upon the little peculiarities that particular 'keeper has.

"Pat Jennings and Kevin Keelan used their feet a lot and it's very effective. Ray Clemence and Peter Shilton go by the textbook and they, too, are very good.

MOST DANGEROUS

"You don't really need to be big to be good. I'm only 5ft 11ins but I can cope. If you are too big you can't get down very well."

better than Ray Clemence.

"He wasn't a natural, but he has just worked at it and stayed at the top.

"He gets his angles right and does a good job at directing his defenders. He knows what's what in his job.

"On the other hand, Ray Clemence is a natural 'keeper. He has terrific agility and bags of confidence. His only real weakness is that he doesn't score goals!

"But a lot of people have a go at modern 'keeping. They are always asking where the great 'keepers of yesteryear went.

"The great 'keepers are still here, but everything else in the game has changed. The ball is lighter, there is a lot more skill involved in scoring. I think some of those great saves in the past could

became a top 'keeper'

Ipswich Town

free-kicks from dangerous positions, I take over the captain's role. I take charge of the box.

"And that's the way it should be in the goalkeeper's domain. I put players where I want them and make sure the wall is sorted out."

There are no set rules to deal with any situation explained Paul. But he describes how he goes about making his patch the safest in the League.

"We have to deal with all situations. If there is a dangerous cross coming over, for example, I try to take it as early and as high as possible. I avoid a standing jump and try to get to it before everyone else.

"But on the other hand, if it just hangs in the air I leave it as late as possible.

"My pet hate is the wind. If it's swirling it can make you look a right fool. The ball does all sorts of tricks, spiralling, swerving, sometimes you go up for it and there is nothing but thin air in your hands.

"The worst type of cross to deal with is the low, hard one when there are a lot of forwards about.

"Corners are similar in a way, but most teams have set pieces from them.

"I try to stay on the back post and hold my ground. And when the ball comes over I try to take it cleanly. If you go to the near post it can easily go over your head.

"If I can't get to it properly then I'll knock it out for a corner. But if I change my mind in that situation then they've got a goal."

PENALTY ACE

Paul is one of the best to have between the posts when a penalty is given. He has saved nearly 50 per cent of the spot-kicks awarded this season.

"I've no particular method, no secret formula when it comes down to it. Sometimes you know where it's going to go, sometimes

you guess.

"By doing my homework I can predict where certain players are going to put the ball.

"But a penalty six feet up and near a post and you can't get anywhere near it.

"I wouldn't like to be on the end of a John Wark or John Robertson penalty. In fact, I don't like to be on the end of any of them.

"But Tony Brown of WBA was one of the best. He used to just blast it — I don't think even he knew where it was going."

Free-kicks outside the box are just as much a problem.

The art of free-kicking has changed. Now it's highly technical.

'Position'

"The first thing I do when there is a free-kick against us is to weigh up where it is and how many I need in the wall, then I try to read what they are going to do and position myself.

"I have to be alert to everything. If they tap it one side and hit it past the wall then I'm on my own.

"I pray that there is not a deflection because if I'm already committed I've had it. But there is a great feeling of relief when it's all over and you're safe."

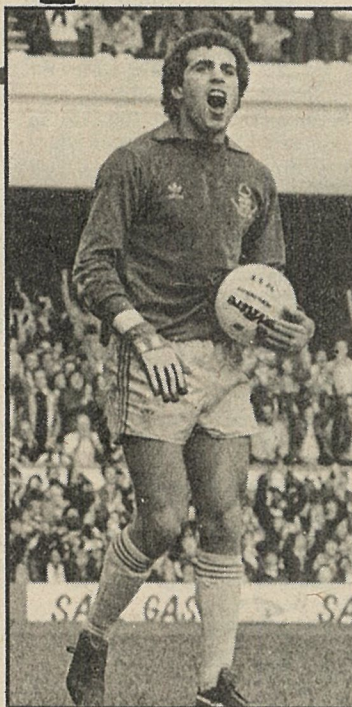
One that wasn't safe was Paul Power's shot from the free-kick in the F.A. Cup Semi-Final at Villa Park.

"Paul Power knew what he wanted and went for it. But if he had taken it a dozen other times it would have gone a different place.

"Every shot is different. You can't generalise how to deal with them. You have to narrow the angle but if you come out too far then there's a chance it will go over your head. There is a lot of common sense involved."

Much of that applies to the one to one situation.

Paul tries to make himself as big a target as possible, but doesn't allow himself to make the striker's



Peter Shilton

have been done by gran!

"The game has changed. You can't compare modern 'keepers with those of the past."

Of past greats, Paul puts Sepp Maier at the top of the tree. He found him fascinating. Although he was very underrated he was a real showman, spectacular and a delight to watch.

Back to Paul's career, and the best save he ever made.

"It was a header by Ted MacDougall from five yards out. A real bullet. Even the referee, Jack Taylor, said it was one of the best saves he had ever seen."

If you want to end up in Paul's boots then there's a lot to be done.

EXPERT ADVICE

"Start early and stick at it. You should be thinking seriously about goalkeeping at 13.

"Just get a few pals together to help you practice — stand them in a semi-circle around your net and get them to shoot at you from all possible angles.

"That will teach you to get around, it will teach you agility. Even if you just have one friend to help you, then get him to move around and vary the shots.

"Once you have a basic technique and can get all the angles right then you have a start."

But the mischievous Midlander thinks fun is a vital part of the game.

"I like to have a laugh on the pitch. If I get half a chance when the ref has his back turned then I'll shove the ball up the back of my shirt. Fooling around breaks the big match tension."

Soccer is fun for Paul and that's the way he wants it to stay.

In his view the 'keeper's lot is quite a happy one.

The man most qualified to talk about dangerous and effective players is the man who has to stop them — the goalkeeper.

"Top man for me is Trevor Francis. He's a lethal finisher and natural on either foot. If he gets the chance he'll put it away.

"He does things that you just don't think he can and things nobody else can."

Paul remembers one goal in particular — when Francis got a ricochet. The ball was coming at him four feet up and he just volleyed it, "it wasn't a hard shot," said Paul, "just deliberate. I'll bet nine out of ten players would have sent that flying over the top. It was perfect."

SHILTON TOPS

As for his rivals, Paul puts Peter Shilton head and shoulders above the rest.

"He's simply the best, even

No. 2. How Bobby McDonald became a top defender.



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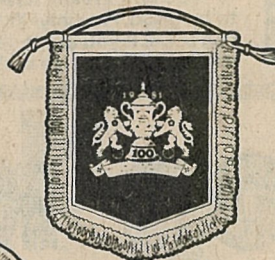


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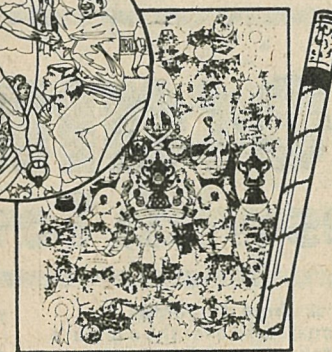
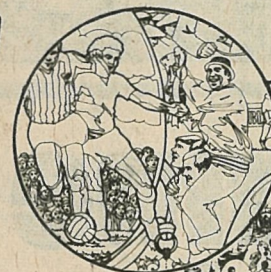
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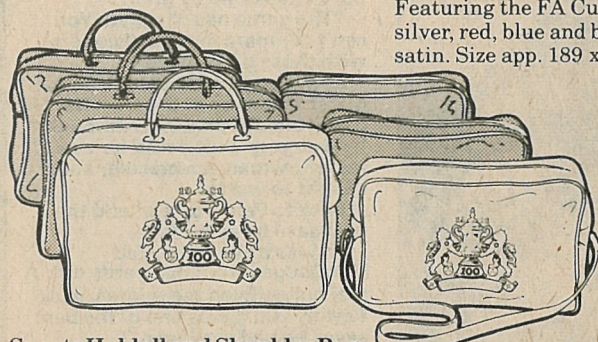
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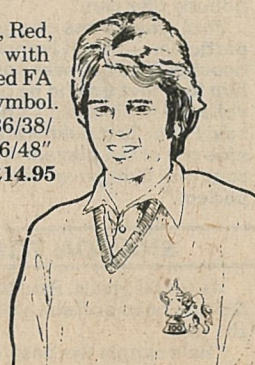
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AT 25, Aberdeen skipper Willie Miller must be the youngest active senior player in Britain ever to enjoy a testimonial year.

The lavish round of money-spinning schemes — benefit dinner, special glossy magazine, a glamour friendly game — all belong traditionally to the veterans, the players nearing the end of their careers.

So why should a 'kid' like Miller, right at the peak of his powers, be honoured so prematurely?

The official reason has a great deal to do with pure finance. Miller had reached the crossroads of his career. The Bank of England clubs beckoned, brandishing the kind of bank-book

bargaining against which most Scottish clubs are powerless.

But Aberdeen, ambitious as ever, won the battle for their skipper's future.

And the cash from all the fund-raising events will compensate Miller in some measure for the huge signing-on fee he sacrificed when he abandoned thoughts of a transfer south.

But there is another explanation for Miller's untimely testimonial . . . simply that he has already packed in as many highlights as most players earn in a career.

And he will clearly need at least two more testimonial seasons, before he is finished, to pay proper

tribute to one of Scotland's finest clubmen.

"What can I say about Willie that we don't all know already?" says his boss Alex Ferguson. "He is the ideal captain, a terrific example to young players — every inch a real professional."

These qualities show through in every game Willie plays, for his club or his country.

His dedication to the game, and his loyalty to those around him, have made Willie stand out ever since he first started kicking a ball around at school in Glasgow.

He would play anywhere in the side — just as long as he got a game, and that willing versatility saw him earn

— a position that The Dons had not adequately filled following the transfer of Pittodrie idol Martin Buchan to Manchester United a year before.

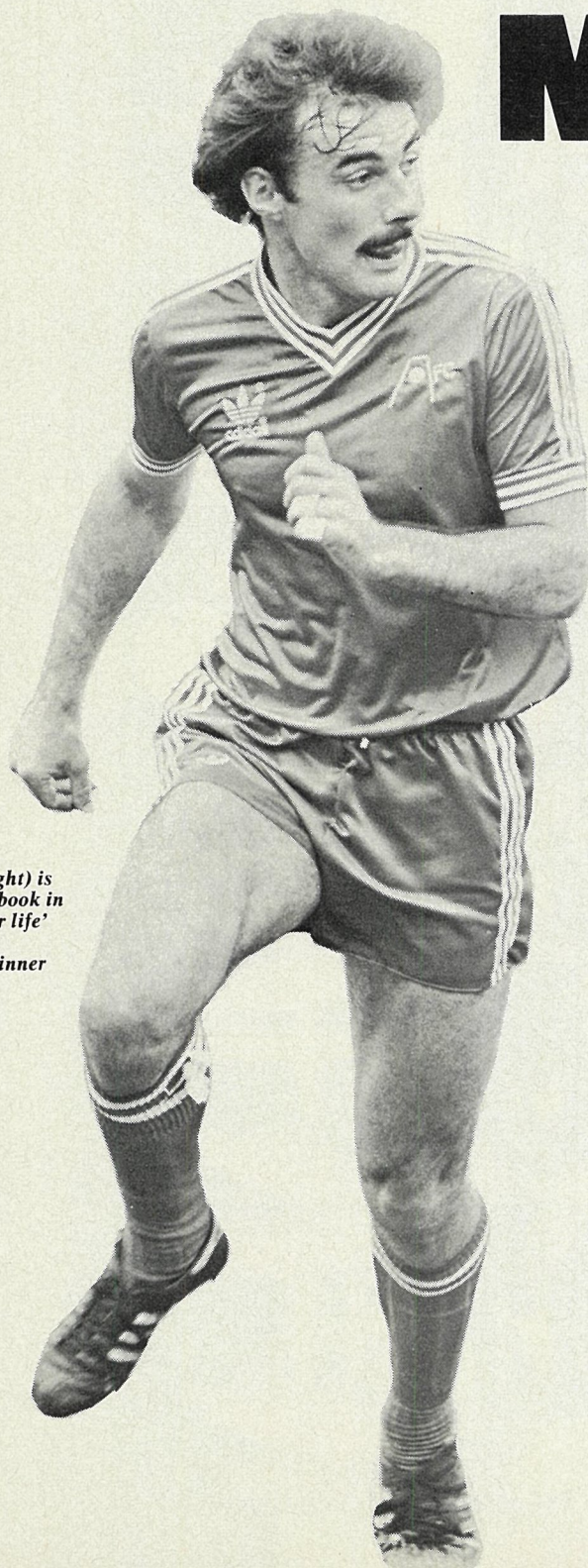
After just a handful of games, Willie showed he had found his true role — and he has been there ever since, over eight seasons and more than 450 remarkably-consistent first team games.

It has always been said that a player with Aberdeen, or any other provincial club, has to be really exceptional to win — and keep — a place in Scotland's international squad.

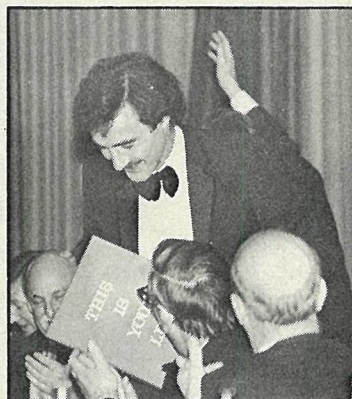
Anglos, and players with Rangers and Celtic, always seem to have much more opportunity to catch the attention of the team boss.

But Miller has made it, thanks in no small measure to his willingness to put his team before himself. He earned

Miller succeeds against the odds



Willie (far right) is given the red book in a 'This is your life' treat at a testimonial dinner recently.



his first full cap, against Rumania in Bucharest, in June, 1975, when he agreed to play out of his usual role, as a link man in front of the defence.

He did well in a 1-1 draw, but he paid the price for his versatility, being left on the international fringe for nearly three years.

Again, when he fought back to a place in the side, he was asked to show his loyalty by taking over a midfield place in an emergency in Sweden this season.

After his previous experience, he would perhaps have been justified in refusing — as one of his team-mates already had. But that's not Miller's style. "Of course I'll have a go", he told Jock Stein.

Vital

He paid off again in Scotland's 1-0 win, and now he must be considered a central, and vital, part of Scotland's forward planning for the World Cup Finals in Spain.

Only when the season is over will Miller look forward to his unique testimonial game, against Tottenham.

"It will be great to play against my old mate Steve Archibald," he says.

"I'm really thrilled that they have agreed to play in my benefit game."

Equally, English eyes will be on Miller, questioningly, wondering just why a man with so much ability should have refused to join the gravy-train South and has committed himself and his future to Britain's most northerly senior club.

For the answer, they just have to ask any Aberdeen fan who is willingly shelling out to support the testimonial year of a very special, loyal skipper.

the unusual distinction of playing for schoolboy select sides both as a goalkeeper and as a goalscorer.

It was his scoring feats that caught the senior eyes, and after Willie had played trials for both Bristol City and Bury, Aberdeen's legendary West of Scotland scout, Bobby Calder, persuaded him his future lay in the Granite City.

As a 16-year-old, he seemed a little slight and frail for senior football, and Aberdeen manager Jimmy Bonthron decided the right toughening-up school for the boy was the Highland League.

But he quickly showed, when he joined Peterhead on loan, that he had surprising strength, and courage, never flinching a physical challenge. His 23 goals that season saw him win an Aberdeenshire Cup medal — and a rapid recall to Pittodrie as a highly-promising striker.

It was one of those lucky breaks which saw Willie tried out as sweeper

ABERDEEN

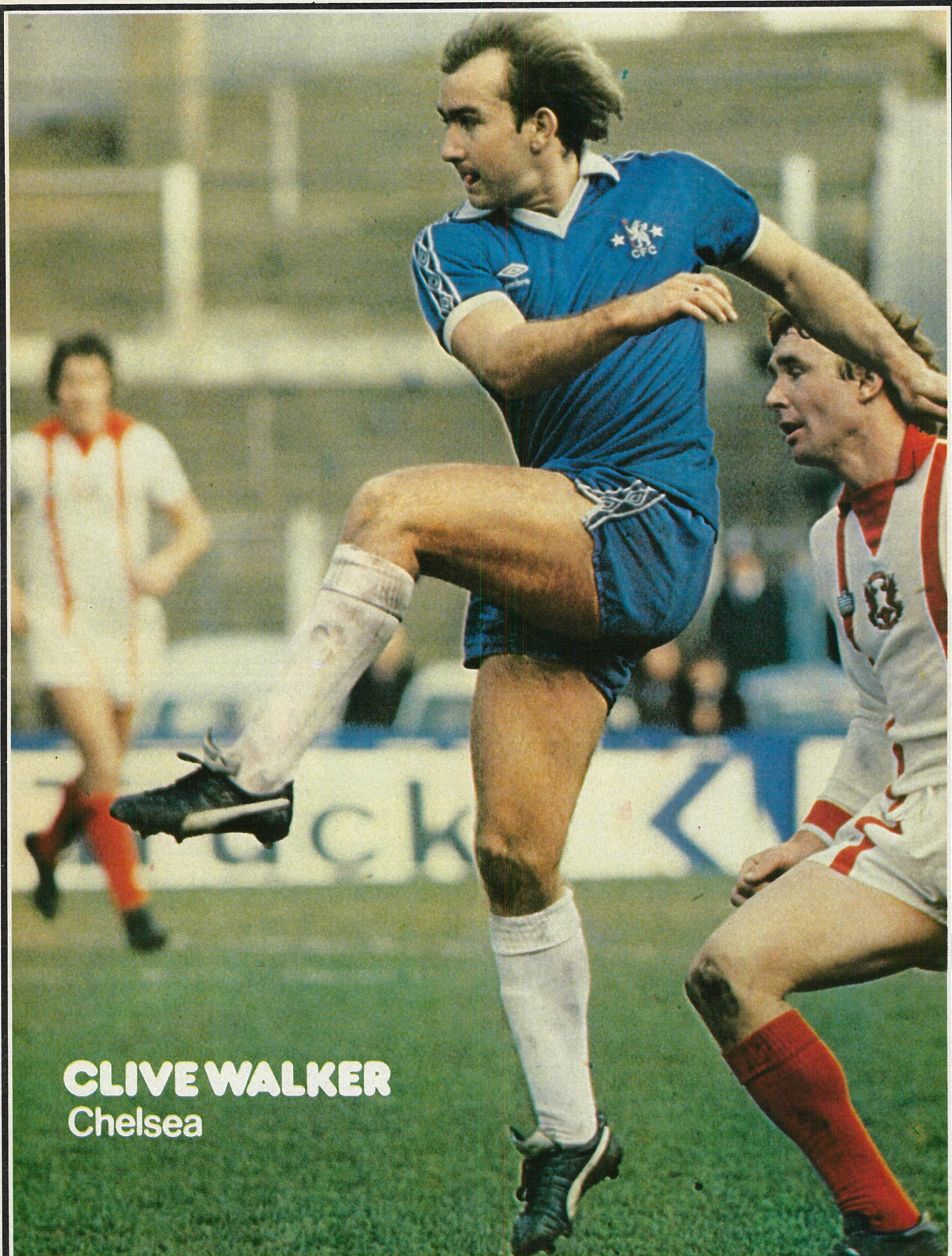
The pride of Scotland

The emergence of Aberdeen as one of Scotland's leading club sides was confirmed last season when they took the Premier Division title. To emphasise their current stature, they now have 17 Scottish internationals on their books at Pittodrie.



BACK ROW (left to right): Neale Simpson (youth), Neale Cooper (youth), Alex McLeish (full), Jim Leighton (under 21), Bryan Gunn (youth), Bobby Clark (full), Dougie Bell (under 21), Mark McGhee (under 21), Drew Jarvie (full).

FRONT ROW: Andy Watson (under 21), Stuart Kennedy (full), Alan Lyons (schoolboy), Willie Miller (full), Gordon Strachan (full), Eric Black (youth), Andy Dorman (under 21), John Hewitt (under 21).



CLIVE WALKER
Chelsea

SHOOT!

IF Graham Taylor had a point for every pat on the back his Watford side have earned him this season, the Vicarage Road boss could be enjoying an end-of-season promotion party right now.

But he isn't. And the stark reality of the situation is, instead of hob-nobbing it up there with the leaders in Division Two, The Hornets are, in fact, languishing out at the other end of the table.

Yet Taylor is adamant that he's not about to abandon the style that has won him admirers both home and away, yet precious few

foolish enough to try that in this day and age.

"But I do believe that every game is there to be won, and it stands to reason you've got more chance of achieving victory by getting into your opponents' half.

"Besides, I'm convinced that the majority of players today want to go forward more, and enjoy the freedom of expression that comes with it. I know mine do.

"And the footballing public certainly don't want to see them playing defensively.

"That's why I challenge anyone who's seen the way we've been

looking incidents.

"Those kind of things are severe body blows, make no mistake about that. But like any good fighter, we've got to pick ourselves up, and carry on.

"I committed Watford to playing a certain way at the beginning of the season, and I'm not about to turn my back on what I believe in now. What we need now is

another shot in the arm like that 7-1 win we had over Southampton in the League Cup.

"I've never lacked confidence in my own judgment and ability, and that result proved to me that we were on the right lines."

The pity is, of course, that there aren't more managers like Graham Taylor, with the courage of their own convictions.

WATFORD AIM TO BRIDGE THE GAP

points to show for it.

"We set out at the beginning of the season to play soccer the way we think it *should* be played.

"Purely and simply, we decided that once we'd got the ball, we'd attack with it," Taylor explained.

"I know it seems obvious enough, but from what I've seen, there are still far too many teams afraid to press forward with any real commitment.

"It's a sad thing to say, but for many, the fear of losing has taken precedence over the joy of winning.

"Don't get me wrong. I haven't been advocating a policy of attack at all costs, and to hell with the consequences. No-one would be

playing this season to stand up and say that what we're doing isn't for the benefit of the game.

"Okay, I can hear the wise-guy cracks already. 'If his way is so right, then why are Watford where they are now?'

"Our main problem this season is we just aren't getting any luck at all. And don't think that's just a weak excuse, because luck plays a major part in soccer. How else can you explain the fact that we've played quite a few teams off the park this season only to see them break away and score? Or that I've lost two of my most valuable first team players, Ian Bolton and Martin Patching, for most of the season, after two innocuous



IAIN Hesford, the Blackpool goalkeeper, has been the one bright spot to emerge from a season of disaster for the Bloomfield Road club.

For Iain played in the England Under-21 team which beat the Republic of Ireland 1-0 at Anfield in February — a feat that didn't go unrecognised by a host of watching clubs.

So far there have been no takers, yet the Zambian-born Hesford has no intentions of parading his skills in the Fourth Division.

He said: "I'm just keeping my fingers crossed in the hope that something happens before the beginning of next season. I'm sure I can do a job for a better club in a higher League.

"I just want to start afresh. After all, I must have some sort of ability to be included in the Under-21s."

The 21-year-old Hesford says: "It's been a challenge ever since I've been at Bloomfield Road.

"We've always had a struggling side and it would be nice to go to a place and concentrate on the other end of the table, rather than at the bottom.

"My aims are to play in the First Division and, if I can reach the top grade, then I can start thinking of an international career. At the moment, I can't.

"I know there have been rumours linking me with Manchester City. I wouldn't mind being an understudy to someone like Joe Corrigan for perhaps a year or so, because there's no doubt that a



BLACKPOOL'S ONLY BRIGHT SPOT

'keeper of his class would teach me a lot and that would stand me in good stead. But obviously I wouldn't want to be stuck in the reserves for four or five seasons.

"In five years I've had three sets of directors, seven managers and nine coaches. That in itself must be a major cause for the club's decline.

"This season we haven't been playing too badly. In fact, we've been one of the most attractive sides in the Third Division. But Colin Morris was the only man scoring goals. He dried up and when that happens, then the whole team dries up.

"The defence has been letting goals in and if you do that, then you've got to put matters right at the other end. Only Crystal Palace of the other 92 League clubs have a worse defensive record.

"New manager Allan Brown is very quiet off the pitch. He's older and more mellow than Alan Ball, who was a character in himself.

"Consistency has come into my game this season. I've never been

ever-present before and that has made the difference.

"I like to think that I now command the box. I don't talk very much and I only tell the outfield players what they can't see. I don't try and pull them out of position because that's not my department.

"The coaches at Blackpool have all helped. They've all seen ability and tried to bring it out of me, for which I'm very grateful.

"Strange as it may seem, the fans have been good with us this year. They supported the team more when the hope of staying in the Third Division was almost gone than they've ever done.

"Of course, we have had the usual unprintable comments about lack of organisation, but you can expect that when you're on the verge of relegation."

Iain has already performed a near miracle by being chosen for the England Under-21 side. And with the critics constantly on the look-out for a suitable replacement for Clemence and Shilton, then Hesford could be the one to emerge from the pack.

Defeat helped Celtic become Champions

Tartan Talk
DANNY McGRAIN



With the likes of Mark Reid, Celtic's future is bright.

CHAMPIONS again! But regular readers of this column will note that I hardly dared mention the words in recent Tartan Talks.

That is because the last two years of the Scottish Premier Division race have proved that he who counts his chickens comes a cropper pretty quickly.

Two years ago Rangers did just that and we pipped them at the post in an amazing showdown at Parkhead.

Then a year ago it was our turn to throw it away when, just as it seemed we couldn't possibly NOT win the title, Aberdeen crept up on us and stole it all away.

This time though it is all's well that ends well.

We opened up a big gap going into the final straight and neither department of the threat from the East — The Dons and Dundee United — could catch us.

Assured

Most important of all, the win was achieved with four new first team players all under 21 — Pat Bonner, Mark Reid, John Weir and Charlie Nicholas — which means the future of the club is assured at the top level.

As I look back I think I can put my finger on where it all began, just under a year ago.

It was on a close season tour to West Germany and Holland and we had just been beaten 4-0 by Werder Bremen in a friendly in their magnificent stadium.

Back at our hotel I have seldom seen a group of football players so down in the dumps and we talked and talked well into the night realising just how much work we had to do to get right back on the road to the top.

Changes were made and Charlie Nicholas — who was on his first trip with the club — came of age. Tommy Burns and Roddie MacDonald were not with the party because they were in a contract dispute, but when we arrived home the boss sorted it all out... and Celtic took off again.

The going wasn't easy though and

two days after Christmas when Aberdeen walloped us at Pittodrie I began to worry again. But that result shook us and we woke up our ideas again.

Manager Billy McNeill has achieved a quiet revolution in team selection when you think that players like Andy Lynch and Johannes Edvaldsson have left for foreign parts and Ronnie Glavin to England.

On top of that Peter Latchford and Roddie MacDonald lost their places. All that amounts to half a team.

Mind you, the chief challengers did have their problems.

Aberdeen suffered badly with the injuries to Gordon Strachan and John McMaster, with the absence of the class of Strachan really hitting them hard.

It is easy to say that a Championship team should overcome the loss of players, but that is easier said than done. Having said that, I don't think they ever satisfactorily replaced Stevie Archibald after selling him to Spurs.

Rangers spent their season going through the change period we went through three years ago, but we won't write them off next year.

And so it is into that European Cup once again where no team from Scotland has reached the Semi-Final stage since the formation of the Premier Division. That is something that must be put right... pronto!

Now, where did I put my champagne glass?

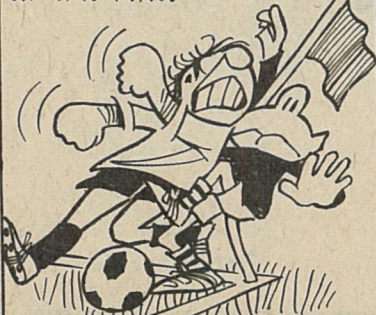
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Danny McGrain

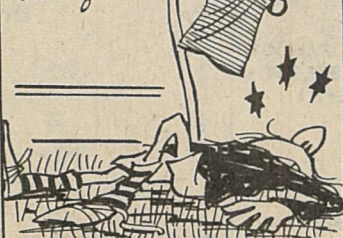
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NEXT WEEK**

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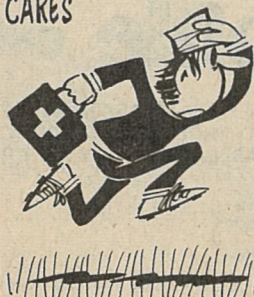
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SO IT'S GOOD TO KNOW SOMEBODY CARES



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I wasn't that long ago that Brian Whittaker seemed to be hopping over to West Germany every second weekend to train with a whole army of clubs including Hertha Berlin, Eintracht Frankfurt, and Schalke.

"I was desperate to leave Partick Thistle," says cultured left-back Brian. "My contract was up and I was ready to go elsewhere to further my career. I thought playing in West Germany would be an education. It didn't do Kevin Keegan any harm!"

But nowadays you would be hard pressed to find a more settled individual... and Whittaker is still with the Firhill club.

"Why the big transformation?" asks Whittaker. "There are several reasons, but the main one was I was beginning to enjoy my soccer again.

'Style'

"Peter Cormack took over from Bertie Auld and I liked his style.

"I'm not knocking Bertie Auld, who did a marvellous job for Thistle as a club and myself as an individual. But Peter Cormack wanted us to be more adventurous, to take the play to our opponents, and that suited me.

"I may be a full-back, but I like nothing more than to support my midfield or front men and put the pressure on the opponents."

As well as a host of Bundesliga clubs searching for his signature, there were rumours on the home front that Rangers and Aberdeen wanted to sign the player.

"Yes, I heard those stories, but I

tried to push them out of my mind and get on with the game with Thistle," says Whittaker.

He must have done that fairly well, for Whittaker's form this season has been superb — blotted only by an ordering-off against Celtic at Parkhead after a foul on elusive striker Charlie Nicholas.

Whittaker was slammed by manager Cormack after that unusual action, for the left-back is

rather strange circumstances.

It was one Sunday four years ago when a Scottish side, managed by Ally MacLeod, agreed to play Rangers in the John Greig testimonial match. There was the usual spate of injuries and call-offs and players such as Joe Jordan and Lou Macari actually got held up in the traffic on their way to the game.

An urgent message went out for a left-back... and Whittaker

Whittaker turns his back on Germany

more known for his brain rather than his brawn.

"Brian could have been a mid-field player," says one opponent. "He certainly has the skill... it's fairly obvious when he comes forward, working those very neat little one-tuos with his teammates.

"When he moves inside he can be lethal. He doesn't panic and sizes everything up before parting with the ball.

"He might not score a load of goals, but he possesses a rare old wallop when he wants to let fly at goal. Most of the time, though, he prefers to go wide and float over crosses for his colleagues."

Whittaker has actually played for the Scottish international side in

answered the call to represent his country.

"I've always wanted to play for my country, but perhaps not in those rather hectic circumstances," says Whittaker. "As it turned out we were trounced 5-0 and John Greig even managed to score two of the goals!"

Greig must have been fairly impressed by Whittaker because he was the first player he tried to sign when he took over as Rangers manager in '78. He bid over £100,000, but former Thistle boss Bertie Auld turned it down.

Whittaker is not grumbling, though. This fine left-back is now settled at Firhill, the transfer talk is forgotten and the future is certainly bright.



A close shave for Trevor

NOTTINGHAM Forest and England star Trevor Francis looks pleased with his shave, and so he should be — he's just used a Wilkinson Sword Profile razor, the latest technological advance in shaving.

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THE last Saturday of the League season . . . but United have already played their last game and on May 6th we fly to Israel for a brief four-day visit. Most of the England internationals have completed around 50 matches — some more — but there is still a lot of football to come.

No other country in the world would ask its top players to plough through so many matches in varying conditions and then expect them to be fresh enough for a series of internationals, which in our case includes two World Cup-ties.

It's no use complaining or even using tiredness as an excuse. The players have had to do it for so long it's become part of the soccer calendar.

I think the long season has already taken its toll on some clubs, notably Ipswich, but their England players will simply have to forget what's happening in East Anglia when they get down to international business.

Ron Greenwood knows the situation, but can do nothing about it. Few of his squad will have won a medal this season; many will have disappointments fresh in their minds. Despite this, they'll have to go out and play as if the season were just beginning and legs were raring to go after the summer's rest.

Ray Wilkins
WRITES
FOR YOU



In some ways, joining the England squad can be a help if you've just lost at Wembley or been pipped for the Championship. A different environment . . . different chatter . . . I remember last year as we flew off to Italy the mood was good.

That we failed in the European Championship wasn't necessarily down to being stale. The draw against Belgium knocked us back because we thought we'd done enough to win.

Successful

The Rumania game gone, our next task is to take on the most successful country in world football: Brazil. But from what I saw of them in the Copa de Oro I don't expect too much from them at Wembley.

I've been lucky enough to see 90 minute videos of the games played in Uruguay and in my view the best team there was West Germany.

Okay, the South Americans showed their customary ball-control. The most organised side was West Germany, though, despite their failure.

Only Socrates, Brazil's big number nine and captain, took my eye. The rest were instantly forgettable.

Brazil have already qualified for the World Cup Finals, but the game at Wembley is obviously an important part of their build-up. They



won't want their confidence rocked, so my guess is they'll rely on breakaways rather than a more attacking formation.

Having said that, the name 'Brazil' still means 'magic' to me. There isn't an English footballer who wouldn't give anything to play against the three-times World Champions.

The game in the Maracana Stadium in 1977 is one I'll never forget. I was expecting great things from Rio and the Maracana . . . and I wasn't let down. In fact, everything was better than I'd hoped.

The atmosphere in the stadium was incredible, with drums and all sorts of noise. And if there is a more beautiful place than Rio de Janeiro I'd like to see it.

England stayed in a fabulous hotel



ABOVE: "The long season has taken its toll on the Ipswich players."

LEFT: "We weren't stale during the European Championship last summer."

'ENGLAND PLAYERS CAN'T BE TIRED'

on the Copacabana and it was like a dream to wake up to the sound of waves rather than the pitter-patter of rain against the window.

We drew that game 0-0 and I came off in the second-half because my legs were giving way. When Brazil came to Wembley in 1978, and we drew 1-1, I'd only just come back from injury and wasn't even considered as a sub.

Their football seems to have declined since 1970 when they won the World Cup with such style in Mexico. I was just 13 then and remember marvelling at the mid-field skills of Gerson, whose passing of the ball has surely never been equalled.

That was a fabulous team with so many world-class players. Every one of their goals was a classic, too.

Even now I can recall many of them and some of the things they tried, such as Pele's shot from the halfway line.

A year ago Argentina came to Wembley and made a game of it. It was most enjoyable to play in, and pitting my wits against the likes of Maradona was good experience.

Hopefully, the game against Brazil on May 12th will be a fiesta, too, but the new team doesn't appear to have as many outstanding players as Argentina possess.

Join me again in two weeks.

Ray Wilkins

Players' 'mate' Webb still the boss

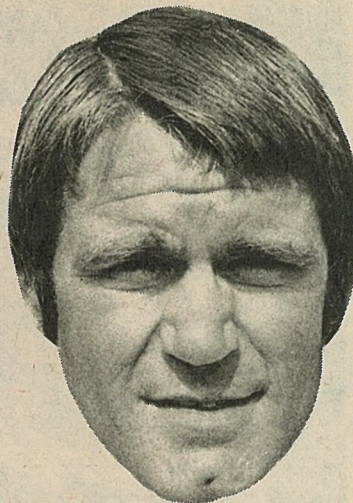


DAVE Webb, the latest of Bournemouth's 13 post-War managers, insists he will not be inhibited by the insecurity of football management. This 35-year-old Cockney is very much his own man.

"I don't need telling I'm in a precarious business," says Webb, who is on a three-year contract. "But I'm not frightened. I've got faith in my own ability and if things should go wrong then I'll take the consequences. I won't stop making decisions, though."

Bournemouth, who have never risen above Division Three in their 82-year history, recruited him as player-coach last May. Just seven months later he succeeded that doyen of managers, Alec Stock (left).

Early results were impressive. Webb was named February's Fourth Division Bell's Manager of



the Month and the team swept up the table with a 12-match unbeaten run.

The Bournemouth revival both pleases and amuses the club's new young manager. "Not so long ago when things were dodgy and the bullets were flying, everyone was ducking for cover and no decisions were being made," he says with a wry shake of his head. "Now, everyone is jumping on the bandwagon and everyone is trying to make decisions."

"My reputation as a player was that of a hard but fair man and I'm certainly prepared to be a ruthless manager at times if that's what's needed. It's up to me to get the

place right.

"Mind you, I'm not the type who goes round demanding that players call me 'boss.' On the contrary, the lads call me 'Dave' or 'mate' and that's fine — just so long as they know who is the boss."

The man who headed Chelsea's winning goal in the 1970 F.A. Cup Final replay against Leeds also played for Orient, Southampton, Q.P.R., Leicester and Derby before joining success-starved Bournemouth. But he says his 18-year playing career is finished.

"I don't believe in player-managers," he states bluntly. "They're alright, I suppose, in a good team, but there again a good team doesn't need one, so why stay around and deny a place to a promising 17-year-old?"

Smiles

Webb lives in an £85,000 luxury New Forest home at Ashley Heath, near Ringwood.

"Yes, football's been good to me," he smiles. "But you only get out what you put in and I've always given 100 per cent."

Alec Stock, that football gentleman who spent 35 years in management, has little doubt about Dave Webb's potential as a manager. "David could be very good," he says. "He's full of ideas, rather like a juggler with 15 balls in the air at the same time. I'll put a few bob on him becoming quite a power in the game one day."



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Personal Callers Welcome



DESPITE all our problems of recent weeks, I have to say that Everton are easily the best club I have ever been with.

They are much bigger than Q.P.R., yet ironically they seem to pay more attention to the little details which help a professional footballer settle at a club.

The stadium here is terrific, with great atmosphere. That's one of the real bonuses you find with joining a big city club outside London. The trouble with the capital is there are 12 clubs and the interest is spread so widely. On Merseyside, all the interest is concentrated on just two clubs.

You are always under the spotlight at Goodison Park. It's all to do with Liverpool and the fact they have been so successful in the last few years. As an Evertonian, you are expected to match that, so the pressure is really on any player at Goodison. That's the first thing I noticed when I signed from Rangers.

On Merseyside, it's hard to escape the vacuum you find in football circles within the city. Everyone talks all the time about one team or the other; Liverpool or Everton. But you never got that in London, I suppose because it's so much bigger.

Merseyside fans know a lot about the game; much more than

For many years the First Division has been dominated by clubs from London and Merseyside. We asked Peter Eastoe and Trevor Ross of Everton, who have both played in the capital, to compare the two soccer cities.

LONDON or MERSEYSIDE?

the London fans. Whenever you go out in Liverpool, supporters want to talk about a game or discuss a certain aspect. They really understand the game.

Consequently, more is expected of you when you join a Merseyside club. You have got to produce the goods because of the pressure of Liverpool next door. That just isn't the same with any London club, not even Arsenal and Tottenham.

'Everton have made me better'

Trevor Ross,
ex-Arsenal

'They know more up North'

Peter Eastoe, ex-Q.P.R.



I DON'T miss London at all, but as I originally come from near Manchester, that's not surprising. I would say Everton are more or less the same as Arsenal — there really isn't much difference between the two. They're both big clubs with terrific facilities and a marvellous attitude towards their players.

Everton's training ground complex is probably smarter than Arsenal's, but against that, Arsenal's waiter service on away coach trips can hardly be matched by Everton's packed lunches!

I am very fortunate to have been connected with two such superbly organised First Division clubs. Few players have been so lucky. But there is certainly more pressure on players on Merseyside.

The fact that there are 12 clubs in London seems to ease that pressure. In the recent past there were four London First Division teams, so there isn't the same intense focus as there is on Merseyside.

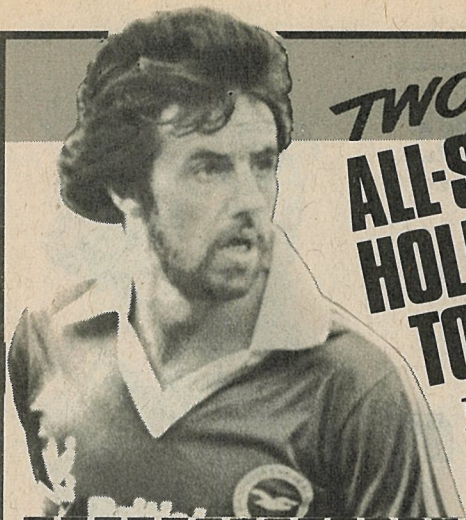
The rivalry between the two clubs on Merseyside is fantastic. You are either blue or red and that's it — for life. That tends to intensify the importance of everything you do as a player caught up in the midst of all that.

I feel I am a better player since I

came to Goodison and that's because I have been given a freer role than I had with Arsenal. Perhaps the confidence which comes from a big money transfer, had something to do with it.

At Arsenal, I played alongside Liam Brady and Alan Ball and was always the junior member of the trio. I had to defend and stay back when the others went forward. But at Everton I have more freedom, a more important role if you like. I'm sure that has helped my game.

I'm 24 and can certainly improve. I don't think I could be at a better club to do that. The surroundings force you to think much more about your game, and I think that helps you improve.



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3. Have Brighton ever won the F.A. Cup?

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TERRY MOVED— TO PAY HIS RENT

WHEN it comes to fighting back from personal disasters, Crystal Palace centre-half Terry Boyle has a record that is hard to beat.

"All I wanted to do at school was play football," he says — but that school was Llanelli Grammar — breeding ground for some of the greatest players of world rugby. Soccer was a game of little more than passing interest on television.

But Terry fought on and finally proved his point by becoming the rugby academy's first soccer schoolboy international. His achievement earned him a new respect. Then he was offered a contract at Tottenham and the world seemed at his feet... but the problems were only just starting for the youngster who had become a local hero.

He never made the first team at Spurs, walked out once on the club for seven months, was accepted back but then given a free transfer.

Next stop was Selhurst Park and, at last, a League debut. Almost immediately on the heels of that ray of hope, however, he sustained a frightening pelvic injury which required surgery.

"After all that, you don't give up. You just become more determined to fight on," he says.

Promises

Now he is faced with relegation at stricken Palace but, after his first full season of League football and a goalscoring debut for Wales, he promises: "There is not going to be any looking back at my life. I've tasted the top at last and I'm not going to let go."

The determination of Boyle was shown as a schoolboy. While the rest of his friends were spinning out passes with the oval ball Gareth Edwards-style, he put a soccer ball inside a plastic bag, hoisted it over a telegraph pole and practised heading.

"That piece of improvisation has done a lot for me," he reflects. "I reckon that heading is one of the strengths of my game, although at 5 feet 10 inches I'm not particularly tall for a central defender."

But did that determination crack during those missing months away from White Hart Lane? Did that traditional reputation of Welsh players for being homesick once they cross the Severn Bridge claim another victim?

"That was the way the newspapers presented it — but it wasn't the truth." Boyle looked uncomfortable, and added: "Look,



I've got a lot of friends at Tottenham and it is a fine club, so I don't like saying this — and I'm stating the reason for the first time.

"It was simply a matter of money. The rent of my flat was £35 a week. I was a Tottenham reserve not earning the kind of money you need to find decent accommodation in London and the club did not help me. I went home because I was broke. It's that simple."

The second chance at Spurs was under better terms and Boyle started his career all over again. "But, although I was sub a couple of times, the chance didn't come in a first team match and, finally it was a free transfer."

The eventual choice was between Palace and Norwich. Boyle, determined to prove himself on the London scene, moved over to Selhurst Park. This season provided the breakthrough of his career: a regular First Division place and his first cap for Wales — when he scored a superb goal against Eire.

'Fiercer'

"Okay, so I've got another fight on my hands after this disappointing Palace season. But when you've battled through the kind of luck I've had, the will to succeed is that much fiercer."

"It's been an upheaval time at Palace, but I really think that we have the makings of a good team now. David Price has fitted in well since he moved across from Arsenal, and Tommy Langley and Brian Bason are coming on together well up front."

"I'm sure that my experiences this season will make me a better player. Confidence is there now and being called up by Wales is out of this world — or, perhaps, it would be better to say IN the world because all the lads feel now that we are heading for Spain and the World Cup Finals next year!"

Wales manager Mike England says: "Terry fits in perfectly to our pattern. He is a tremendous competitor. The way he took on Brendan O'Callaghan in his first international showed that he has that driving will to win that I want from every player."

The prospect of Second Division football next season is not something which frightens Terry Boyle — in fact, he's looking forward to it.

"Our confidence has taken a bit of a bashing this season," he admits. "A few good results will do us the world of good, and if we can make the right kind of start, I'm confident we can make a quick return to the First Division."

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Also col sound 200ft
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Also col sound 200ft
*1976 S'hampton 1, Man. Utd. 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
*1975 West Ham 2, Fulham 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
*1974 Liverpool 3, N'castle 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
*1973 Sunderland 1, Leeds 0..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft
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*1972 Leeds 1, Arsenal 0..... 100ft
Also col sound 200ft

*1971 Arsenal 2, Liverpool 1..... 200ft
Also col sound 200ft

1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 2..... 100ft
1970 Chelsea 2, Leeds 1..... 100ft
1969 Man City 1, Leicester 0..... 100ft
1968 WBA 1, Everton 0..... 200ft
1967 Spurs 2, Chelsea 1..... 200ft
1966 Everton 3, Sheff. Wed 2..... 300ft
1965 Liverpool 2, Leeds 1..... 200ft
1964 West Ham 3, Preston 2..... 200ft
1963 Man. Utd 3, Leicester 1..... 200ft
*1962 Spurs 3, Burnley 1..... 100ft
*1961 Spurs, Leicester..... 100ft
Also col sound 100ft

1960 Wolves 3, Blackburn 0..... 100ft
1959 Nott'ham F. 2, Luton 1..... 100ft
1958 Bolton 2, Man. Utd. 0..... 100ft
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1953 Blackpool 4, Bolton 3..... 100ft
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EUROPEAN CUP

*1978 Liverpool 1, Bruges 0..... 200ft/400ft
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1971 Ajax 2, Panathinaikos 0..... 100ft
1969 Milan 4, Ajax 1..... 200ft
1968 Man. Utd. 4, Benfica 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also b/w sound 200ft
1968 Man. Utd. 3, Madrid 3 (semi-final)..... 200ft
1967 Celtic 2, Inter Milan 1..... 200ft/400ft
1966 Man. Utd. 5, Benfica 1..... 200ft
1963 Milan 2, Benfica 1..... 200ft
1960 R. Madrid 7, Eintracht 3..... 200ft/400ft

WORLD CUP

*1978 Argentina 3, Holland 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft

*1978 Scotland 3, Holland 2..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft

*1978 Argentina 2, France 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft

*1978 Holland 2, Italy 1..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft

*1978 Holland 2 West Germany 2..... 200ft/400ft
Also col sound 400ft

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CLARKE HUNTS NEW TALENT

LEEDS United manager Allan Clarke will be a busy man this summer — in the transfer market.

That's the conclusion one gets talking to the pencil-slim manager who is itching to sign a cheque or two and bring some quality to Elland Road.

Clarke realises more than most just what a dearth of top talent he inherited when Jimmy Adamson was sacked last September. Without saying as much, he acknowledges that the only players of genuine quality at Leeds these days are goalkeeper John Lukic (and he's still learning), defenders Paul Hart and Trevor Cherry, plus Scotsmen Eddie Gray and Arthur Graham.

You could have added Paul Madeley to that list not so long ago, but the seemingly ageless Madeley has decided to quit the game at the season's end.

There will be those who put forward the claims of Brian Flynn, Brian Greenhoff, Carl Harris and

are available. Naturally I only want to bring players to Leeds who I think — and know — can bring us success again.

"I did promise the board that I would buy good players when I decide to spend, and often that means having to pay a lot of money. I am not prepared to discuss names, because I believe transfers should be the private business of the clubs involved and the players themselves until everything is finalised."

The only person added to the pay-roll since he took charge has been the club's former international goalkeeper David Harvey, on loan from Vancouver Whitecaps, and he is basically training the club's 'keepers and looking after the juniors.

On the other side, Clarke has recouped some money from the sales of Alan Curtis, Wayne Entwistle and Jeff Chandler.

There was also talk that striker Derek Parlane, who has hardly set the place alight since his move from Rangers a year ago, may join Norwich for £200,000 — and that money would presumably give Clarke a little scope to go for at least one of the men he fancies.

It's generally understood Leeds are keen on Justin Fashanu of Norwich, David Armstrong, of Middlesbrough, and the Everton pair Bob Latchford and Mike Lyons.

Desperate

Clarke's priority is for a big striker in the Fashanu/Latchford mould — so desperate in fact that Clarke himself threatened to come out of retirement to try and add to his tally of 299 career goals.

In the end he decided against that, hoping instead that his threat had given his lacklustre strikers a gee-up.

Clarke has not exactly revised his thinking about signings, but he does say: "If the situation demands it and I have to buy players to keep us in the First Division as a stop-gap measure I will do that, but I would prefer to keep our heads above water this season and then attempt to buy the players I really want in the long term, rather than take the other route."

"I believe we are going along the right road, and we have at least stopped giving away silly goals, with the exception of two matches in which our goalkeeper dropped a couple of clangers."

"John Lukic will keep goal for England one day, but he is still liable to make mistakes, as all youngsters do, and he has been punished for them."

"I am confident in the long run that we can take Leeds back to the top with a concerted effort, but it's going to be a long haul, and not something that will happen overnight."



Terry Connor has failed to fulfil his early promise at Leeds.

Terry Connor, but Flynn is consistent and modest rather than brilliant and inspiring in the mould of Bremner or even Yorath before him. Greenhoff has had too many injuries for comfort. Harris often flatters to deceive and Connor has gone back in the same way so many youngsters do after a brilliant start.

Alex Sabella is a genius, but a wayward one who only makes you gasp about once a game, and the rest — well sadly that word sums them up.

Clarke has always said he will bring only quality to Leeds in his aim to restore the club to the greatness they knew under his own mentor Don Revie.

"I know the players I would like, but that doesn't mean that they

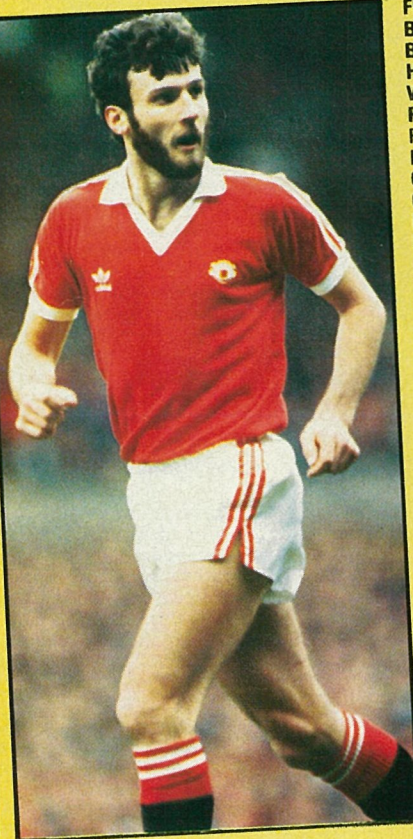
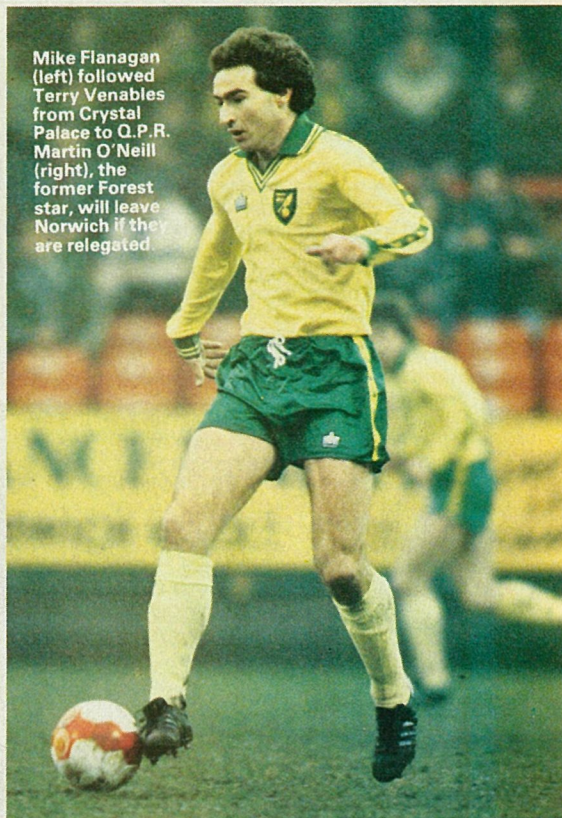


TRANSFER TOPPERS

THE transfer madness which hit the game so disastrously last season has thankfully died down in recent months. Clubs are now reluctant to pay inflated prices, preferring to look for the bargain signings. But some clubs are still prepared to pay big money. Here we take a look at some of the top players who have changed clubs this season.



Mike Flanagan (left) followed Terry Venables from Crystal Palace to Q.P.R. Martin O'Neill (right), the former Forest star, will leave Norwich if they are relegated.



Focus on GARRY BIRTLES Man.Utd.

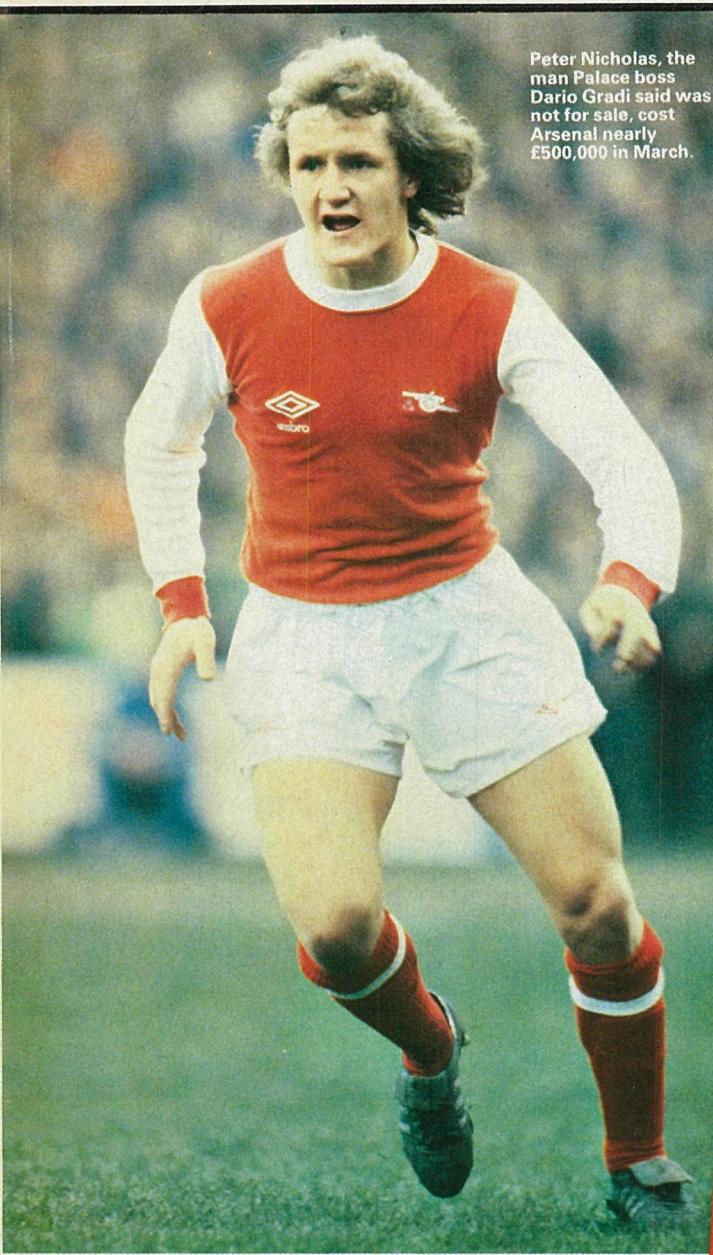
Garry Birtles has been under intense pressure to justify his seven-figure fee.

FULL NAME: Garry Birtles
BIRTHPLACE: Nottingham
BIRTHDATE: July 27, 1956
HEIGHT: 6ft
WEIGHT: 11st 8lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Long Eaton, Nottm. Forest
MARRIED: To Sandra
CHILDREN: No
CAR: TVR Tasmin
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Melody Maker
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Terry McDermott
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATES: Mike Duxbury and Kevin Moran
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Long Eaton Rovers
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Only one — George Best
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Squash
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: The next one
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: European Cup Final v Hamburger SV
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing my dog Digby
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Nottm. Forest
FAVOURITE FOOD + DRINK: Any steak, Dover sole, Lager and Lime
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES AND DISLIKES: Collecting records, beating my squash partner Mike, household chores, rude and false people
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Morfa Nerfyn in Wales
FAVOURITE T.V. STAR, MALE AND FEMALE: Laurel and Hardy, Judy Geeson
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Doing as little as possible
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Alice Cooper, AC/DC, Mike Oldfield
AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: Going to Grange Farm for a meal
BEST FRIEND: My wife Sandra
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My father, John Raynor, Brian Clough, Peter Taylor and everybody at Long Eaton Rovers
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Two Under 21, one 'B' and three full England caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To keep my sense of humour and to live life to the full
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? Floorlayer
WHICH PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Alice Cooper and Jimmy Connors

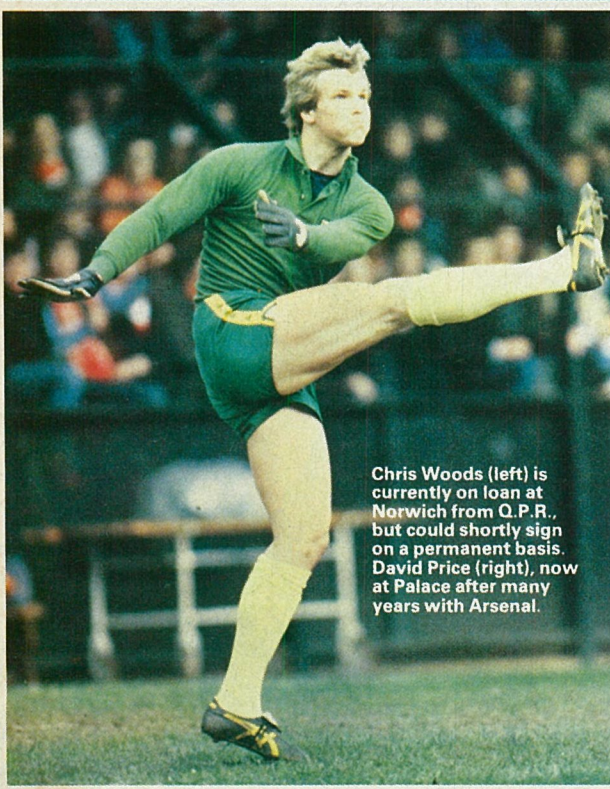
Ronald Birtles

Brian Clough spent the best part of the Birtles money on Ian Wallace from Coventry, but he, too, has struggled to find his best form.

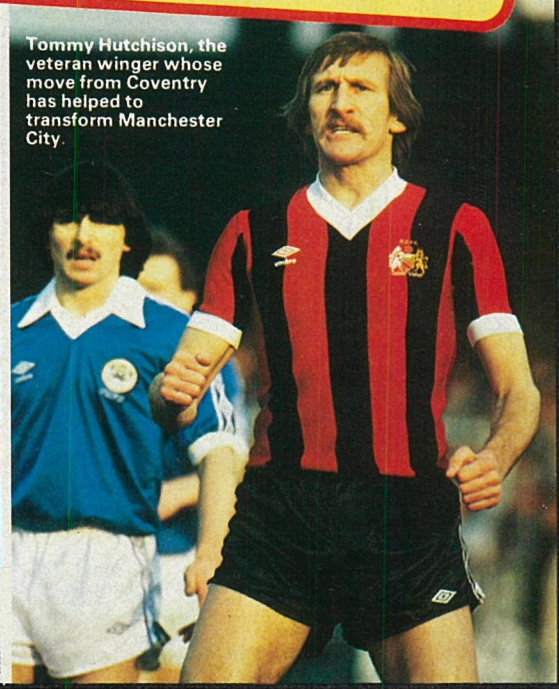




Peter Nicholas, the man Palace boss Dario Gradi said was not for sale, cost Arsenal nearly £500,000 in March.



Chris Woods (left) is currently on loan at Norwich from Q.P.R., but could shortly sign on a permanent basis. David Price (right), now at Palace after many years with Arsenal.



Tommy Hutchison, the veteran winger whose move from Coventry has helped to transform Manchester City.

Focus on **ANDY RITCHIE** Brighton

Andy Ritchie had to leave Manchester United to find regular first team football.

FULL NAME: Andrew Timothy Ritchie
BIRTHPLACE: Manchester
BIRTHDATE: November 28, 1960
HEIGHT: 5ft 10ins
WEIGHT: 11st 7lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Manchester United
MARRIED: No
CAR: None at present
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Daily Star
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Mario Kempes
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Gary Stevens
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Manchester United
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Rodney Marsh
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Golf
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: They are all difficult
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: Scoring hat-trick for United v Spurs at Old Trafford
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Not playing in the 1979 F.A. Cup Final v Arsenal
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Manchester United
FAVOURITE FOOD + DRINK: Fish and lager
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES AND DISLIKES: Relaxing, listening to records and golf/Losing
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Barbados
FAVOURITE T.V. STAR: Bobby Ball
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Playing golf
FAVOURITE SINGERS: David Bowie and Wings
AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: A nice meal and a few drinks
BEST FRIEND: I have many close friends
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Frank Blunstone, who taught me a great deal at Man. Utd., and my dad, who has helped me throughout my career
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: England Under 15 and Youth team caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be happy at my work, to play well and maybe play for England



IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? P.E. teacher
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? David Bowie

Andy Ritchie

HIGH FLYERS!



MAIN PICTURE . . . Manchester United's Sammy McLroy tries an acrobatic header at goal.

ABOVE, LEFT . . . Leeds midfielder Brian Flynn manages to climb above Leicester City's Billy Gibson.

ABOVE . . . A Sunderland sandwich for Dennis Tueart of Manchester City as Sam Allardyce and Steve Whitworth close in.

LEFT . . . It's almost football-et for Southampton's Mike McCartney and Crystal Palace forward Vince Hilaire.

RIGHT . . . Nice one, Cyrille! West Brom striker Cyrille Regis tests Ray Clemence with this effort.

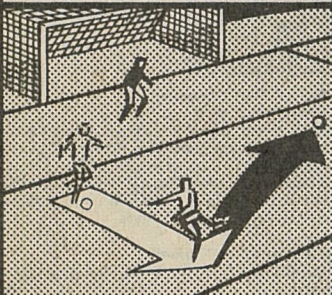




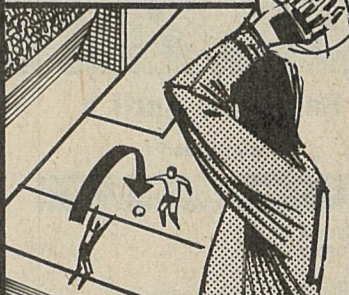
YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

1 A defender, taking a free-kick inside his penalty-area, kicks the ball twice before it leaves the area. Should you (a) allow the kick to be taken, (b) restart the game with a drop ball or (c) have the kick retaken?



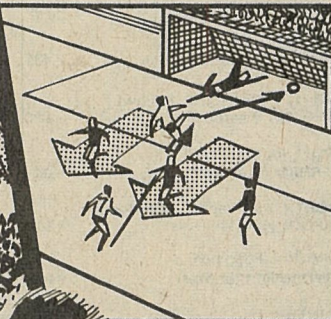
2 A goalkeeper trying to keep the game flowing takes a throw-in. He then runs back into his goal. Should you (a) allow the throw, (b) have the throw retaken by a team-mate or (c) award the throw to the opponents?



3 A substitute abuses a linesman and is cautioned. Later his captain wants to replace an injured team-mate. Should you (a) refuse any substitution, (b) agree or (c) insist on another substitute?



4 Just after the ball is kicked defenders rush forward leaving an opponent in an offside position. The forward scores. Should you (a) award a free-kick for offside, (b) a goal or (c) a goal-kick?



5 If a player asks you how much time remains of the game should you (a) take no action, (b) tell the player the amount of time left or (c) award a free-kick against the player?



ANSWERS:

1. Have the kick retaken (c). 2. Allow the throw to be taken (a). 3. Agree (b). 4. Award a goal (b). 5. Tell the player the amount of time left (b). I remember during a Crystal Palace v Leeds game this season, Leeds player Carl Harris asked me how much time remained, as he was tired after playing for Wales against Turkey during the week. I jokingly said 'You should be fit' and he replied it is also the travelling that tires you out.

CHARLTON striker Paul Walsh is currently one of the most sought after youngsters in the League. Walsh, an England Youth international, is Charlton's lifeline to a happy financial future.

Charlton's F.A. Cup Fifth Round trip to Ipswich opened Walsh's eyes to the style, excitement and aura of big time football. Now he admits: "I'd like to play First Division football. I reckon I could do quite well too, because the standard wasn't really as high as I had expected."

"Individually, the Ipswich players were not as good as I thought they would be. Muhren and Thijsen were outstanding but even though I've been playing in the Third Division, I felt the level wasn't above me at all. I'm sure I could survive."

That's the kind of confidence which has made Walsh the target for some of the country's top scouts. The representatives from London's big clubs, plus others around the country, have been reg-

ular viewers at The Valley, to watch the youngster emerge as Charlton's best prospect for years.

Walsh has an ability to turn and twist away from opponents in the tightest space. He has vision, a good shot and can use the ball well. He puts much of his progress down to the England Youth team coach John Cartwright of whom he says: "A terrific man. The way he wants me to play is the way I enjoy."

"Playing at international level has also done wonders for my confidence, because I'm holding my own with First Division players."

Walsh's greatest assets are his speed — and ability to run with the ball. But earlier this season he made effort to strengthen one part of his game — getting into the penalty-area.

"We agreed at Charlton that I was doing a lot outside the area," he says. "But I wasn't getting in where it hurt, so I made a purposeful effort to put that right and spend much more time in the box."

DIVISION ONE NO PROBLEM FOR WALSH



I picked up some extra goals, too, and that was a bonus."

Walsh has scored regularly this season and his partnership with Derek Hales had been fruitful as Charlton kept up with the Third Division leaders. Yet the youngster says: "Derek and I don't have a real partnership. We do our own thing and it's not like playing off him or anything like that. We play depending on what is on at a particular time. We don't have any set system. But I did learn a lot from him earlier in the season."

Exciting

At 18, Walsh is already one of English football's most talked about young stars. If his current progress is maintained, he seems certain to go on to become a fine player. The immediate future looks exciting.

"I'm hoping to play for England in the 'Little World Cup' in West Germany this summer," he says. "Then, in October, there is a Youth Under 20 World Cup in Australia and I'd love to be there."

"But before that, I'd like to recapture the excellent form I found at the start of the season. I was playing well but then had a six week break because of a knee ligament injury. That set me back and, quite frankly, I struggled for a long time after regaining my place in the side. I wasn't playing to my ability and my aim has to be to find that top form as soon as possible."

No doubt, that problem will be only a minor one for the talented young Charlton striker.

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LINE-UPS...



Lawrie Madden heads Charlton ahead in the Third Division promotion battle against Huddersfield at The Valley. But Huddersfield came back to win 2-1.

Saturday, April 4

continued

Third Division

BURNLEY 0 SWINDON 0	4,726
CARLISLE 0 PORTSMOUTH 0	4,299
CHARLTON (1) 1 (Madden) HUDDERSFIELD (0) 2 (Brown, Kindon)	8,878
CHESTER (1) 2 (Ludlam 2) BARNLEY (1) 2 (Parker, Glavin)	4,680
CHESTERFIELD 0 FULHAM 0	6,756
COLCHESTER (1) 1 (Allinson) SHEFFIELD UTD (0) 1 (Wiggan)	2,439
EXETER (1) 3 (Pearson 2, Kellow) READING (0) 1 (Kearney)	3,890
MILLWALL (0) 0 ROTHERHAM (1) 1 (Fern)	5,041
NEWPORT (1) 3 (Waddle, Aldridge 2) BLACKPOOL (0) 1 (Williams)	4,514
OXFORD (0) 1 (Fogg pen) BRENTFORD (0) 1 (Booker)	3,875
PLYMOUTH 0 HULL 0	4,668

Fourth Division

ALDRSHOT (0) 1 (Robinson) BRADFORD (0) 1 (Ingham)	2,255
BURY (2) 2 (Whitehead, Mullen) TRANMERE (1) 2 (Parry, Evans)	2,425
HALIFAX (0) 0 NORTHAMPTON (1) 1 (Phillips)	1,996
LINCOLN (0) 1 (Hobson) HEREFORD (0) 0	3,665
MANSFIELD (1) 2 (Wood, Lumby) ROCHDALE (1) 2 (Hilditch, Wellings)	2,597
PORT VALE (0) 1 (Armstrong) PETERBOROUGH (0) 1 (Cooke)	2,982
SCUNTHORPE (3) 3 (Green 2, Stewart) YORK (2) 2 (Byrne, Randall)	1,694
WIGAN (0) 0 BOURNEMOUTH (0) 1 (Spackman)	3,750
WIMBLEDON (1) 1 (Cork) DONCASTER (0) 0	3,595

Scottish Premier

AIRDRIE (0) 0 ST MIRREN (1) 2 (Somner, McDougall)	3,500
Airdrie: Gardiner, Irwin, Rodger, Walker, Anderson (G), McCluskey, Flood (Thompson), Clark, Anderson, (N), McKeown. St Mirren: Thompson, Young, McAveety, Copland, Fulton, Abercrombie, Bone, Stark, Somner, McDougall, Richardson.	

HEARTS (1) 1 (Bowman) KILMARNOCK (0) 0	1,866
Hearts: Brough, Denny, Shields, Kidd, More, Bowman, Hamill, MacDonald, Mackay, Gibson (Robertson), Liddell. Kilmarnock: McCulloch, Robin (Crammond), Cockburn, Armstrong, McDicken, Clark, McLean, Mauchlen, Docherty, McBride (Eadie), Bryce.	

MORTON (0) 1 (Tolmie) ABERDEEN (1) 3 (McGhee, Rougvie, Simpson)	5,500
Morton: Baines, Hayes, McLaughlin, Rooney, Holmes, Wilkie, Busby, Thomson, Ritchie (McNab), Tolmie, McNeill. Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, Miller, McLeish, Rougvie, Simpson, Watson, Angus, McGhee, Harrow (Jarvie), Scanlon (Davidson).	

RANGERS (1) 2 (Russell, Redford) DUNDEE UTD (1) 1 (Milne)	14,000
Rangers: Stewart, Miller, Jardine, Forsythe, Dawson, Bett, Russell, McLean, Johnstone, Redford, MacDonald (Johnston). Dundee Utd: McAlpine, Holt, Hegarty, Narey, Stark, Phillip, Gibson (Kepel), Bannon, Milne, Kirkwood, Sturrock.	

Scottish First

BERWICK (0) 1 (Thomson) DUNFERMLINE (0) 0	710
DUMBARTON (2) 2 (Gallagher, Brown) HAMILTON (0) 1 (McDowall)	300
DUNDEE (0) 4 (Sinclair 2, Scrimgeour, Mackie) ST JOHNSTONE (0) 1 (McCoist)	3,586
E. STIRLING (0) 1 (Sharp) AYR (3) 3 (Christie 2, Morris)	850
HIBS 0 STIRLING 0	3,500
MOTHERWELL (0) 1 (Kidd pen) FALKIRK (0) 0	2,045

RAITH (0) 1 (Mitchell) CLYDEBANK (1) 1 (McGorm)	2,500
--	-------

Scottish Second

ALLOA (0) 0 FORFAR (1) 1 (Watt)	660
BRECHIN (1) 1 (Kyllies) COWDENBEATH (1) 2 (Liddle 2)	400
MEADOWBANK (0) 2 (MacCallan, Sproat) ALBION (0) 1 (Gillespie)	150
MONTROSE (0) 0 ARBROATH (2) 3 (Hyslop 2, Lees pen)	450
QUEENS PARK (0) 1 (Dickson) CLYDE (1) 1 (Evans)	1,740
STENHOUSEMUIR (0) 1 (Hancock) E. FIFE (3) 3 (Halley, Tait, Caithness)	350
STRANRAER (0) 1 (Hay pen) QoS (1) 2 (Alexander, Coughlin)	400

Sunday, April 5

Second Division

NOTTS COUNTY (1) 1 (Hunt) WREXHAM (0) 1 (Fox)	10,959
Notts County: Avramovic, Benjamin, O'Brien, Goodwin, Kilkine, Richards, McCulloch, Masson, Christie, Hunt, Hooks.	

RESULTS...SCORERS...

Wrexham: Davies, Hill, Dwyer, Jones, Cegielski, Davis, Fox, Arkwright, Vinter, Buxton, Carrodus.

Fourth Division

DARLINGTON (0) 1 (Smith) 3,631
TORQUAY (0) 0

Scottish Premier

PARTICK (0) 0
CELTIC (0) 1 (McAdam) 17,196
Partick: McNab, Welsh, Whittaker, Campbell, Anderson (Watson), Doyle, Park, McDonald, Higgins, Lapsley, Clark.
Celtic: Bonner, MacLeod, Reid, Sullivan, McAdam, Aitken, Provan, Conroy, McGarvey (Nicholas), Burns, McCluskey.

Monday, April 6

Fourth Division

MANSFIELD (0) 1 (Burrows) 2,748
ALDERSHOT (0) 2 (Sanford, Robinson)

Tuesday, April 7

Third Division

BARNLEY (2) 3 (McHale, Parker 2) 13,283
CHESTER (0) 0
CHESTERFIELD (0) 2 (Crawford, Birch) 5,222
SWINDON (1) 2 (Kamara, Carter)
GILLINGHAM 0
BURNLEY 0 4,362
HUDDERSFIELD (1) 5 (Hanvey, Killis 2, Stanton 2)
EXETER (0) 0 12,009
HULL (0) 0
FULHAM (0) 1 (Brown) 3,152
NEWPORT (1) 1 (Moore)
WALSALL (1) 1 (Caswell) 5,446
SHEFF UTD (2) 2 (Garner, Givens)
CHESTER (0) 0 10,027



Don Givens (Sheffield Utd)

Scottish First

EAST STIRLING 0
BERWICK 0 870

Wednesday, April 8

European Cup

(Semi-Final, first leg)

LIVERPOOL 0
BAYERN MUNICH 0 44,543
Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Kennedy (A), Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Lee, Rush, McDermott (Highway), Case.
Bayern: Jungmans, Dremmler, Horsman, Weiner, Augenthaler, Kraus, Durnberger, Breitner, Hoeness, Niedermayer, Rummenigge.

U.E.F.A. CUP

(Semi-Final, first leg)

IPSWICH (1) 1 (Wark) 24,780
F.C. COLOGNE (0) 0
Ipswich: Cooper, Mills, McCall (Beattie), Thijsen, Osman, Butcher, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil (O'Callaghan), Gates.
Cologne: Schumacher, Prestin, Konopka, Strack (Kroth), Gerber, Cullman, Littbarski, Botteron, Muller (Willmer), Engels, Woodcock.

First Division

ASTON VILLA (0) 1 (Withe) 47,998
WBA (0) 0
Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Gibson, Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremner, Geddis, Withe, Cowans, Morley.
WBA: Godden, Batson, Statham, Moses, Wile, Robertson, Robson, Brown, Regis, Owen, Barnes.

Fourth Division

TORQUAY (0) 1 (Cox) 1,406
YORK (0) 2 (Smith, McDonald)

Scottish First

DUMBARTON 0
MOTHERWELL 0 1,000

Scottish Second

FORFAR (0) 2 (Watt, Brash pen) 980
ARBROATH (0) 1 (Lees)
MONTROSE (3) 6 (Allan 2, Forrest, Sherran, Robb 2)
STRANRAER (1) 1 (Hay pen) 250
QoS (2) 2 (Robertson 2, (1 pen))
COWDENBEATH (1) 2 (Hunter, Marshall) 2,000

Friday, April 10

Third Division

BARNLEY (0) 1 (Cooper) 13,445
EXETER (0) 0

Fourth Division

DONCASTER (0) 2 (Dawson 2) 6,120
STOCKPORT (0) 1 (Bradd)
TRANMERE (1) 3 (Evans 2, Williams)
DARLINGTON (0) 1 (Stalker) 1,228

Saturday, April 11

F.A. Cup

(Semi-Finals)

MANCHESTER CITY (0) 1 (Power) 46,537
IPSWICH (0) 0 at Villa Park AET
Manchester City: Corrigan, Ranson, McDonald, Reid, Power, Caton, Bennett, Gow, Mackenzie, Hutchison, Reeves.
Ipswich: Cooper, Mills, Butcher, Thijsen, Osman, Beattie (McCall), Wark, Muhren, Mariner, Brazil, Gates.
TOTTENHAM (2) 2 (Archibald, Hoddle)
WOLVES (1) 2 (Hibbitt, Carr pen) at Hillsborough AET 50,174
Tottenham: Aleksic, Hughton, Miller, Roberts, Perryman, Villa (Brooke), Ardiles, Archibald, Galvin, Hoddle, Crooks.
Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Parkin, Clarke (Bell), McAlle, Berry, Hibbitt, Carr, Gray, Richards, Hughes.

First Division

ARSENAL 0
LEEDS 0 29,399
Arsenal: Jennings, Devine, Sansom, Talbot, O'Leary, Young, Hollins (McDermott), Sunderland, Stapleton, Nicholas, Davis.
Leeds: Lukic, Greenhoff, Gray, Flynn, Hart, Cherry, Harris, Hird, Parlane, Stevenson, Graham.

COVENTRY (0) 0
MANCHESTER UNITED (2) 2 (Jordan 2) 20,175
Coventry: Sealey, Coop, Roberts, Thomas, Dyson, Gillespie, Bannister, Daly, Thompson, English, Hunt.
Manchester Utd: Bailey, Duxbury, Albiston, Moran, McQueen, Buchan, Coppell, Birtles, Jordan, Macari, Wilkins.



Willie Carr (Wolves)

CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 3 (Langley 2, Lovell) 9,280
BIRMINGHAM (1) 1 (Ainscow)
Palace: Fry, Lovell, Hinshelwood, Price (Paul), Boyle, Gilbert, Bason, Brooks, Walsh, Langley, Hilaire.
Birmingham: Wealands, Langan, Hawker (Van Den Hauwe), Dillon, Gallagher, Todd, Ainscow, Evans, Bertschin, Gemmill, Broadhurst.

EVERTON (0) 0
NORWICH (1) 2 (Royle, Fashanu) 16,254
Everton: McDonagh, Gidman, Ratcliffe, Wright, Lyons, Stanley, Ross, Eastoe (Megson), Varadi, Hartford, Lodge.
Norwich: Woods, McDowell, Downs, McGuire, Walford, Watson, O'Neill, Fashanu, Royle, Paddon, Barham.

MIDDLESBROUGH (0) 1 (Shearer) 11,076
BRIGHTON (0) 0
Middlesbrough: Platt, Nattrass, Bailey, Bell, Angus, McAndrew, Woof, Proctor, Macdonald, Shearer, Armstrong.
Brighton: Digweed, Stevens, Williams, Horton, Foster, Lawrenson, Gregory, Stille, Robinson, Ritchie, McNab (Smith).

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 0
LIVERPOOL 0 27,363
Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gray (F), McGovern, Burns, Aas, Mills, Ward, Francis, Gray (S), Robertson.
Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Money, Thompson, Kennedy (R), Hansen, Dalglish, Lee, Rush, McDermott, Case.

STOKE (0) 2 (Chapman, Dodd) 11,501
SUNDERLAND (0) 0
Stoke: Fox, Evans, Munro, Dodd, O'Callaghan, Doyle, Ursem, Bracewell, Chapman, Heath, McGuire.
Sunderland: Siddall, Hinnigan, Bolton, Hindmarch, Allardyce, Chisholm, Arnott, Brown, Ritchie, Rowell, Cummins.

Second Division

BLACKBURN (0) 1 (Burke) 9,970
BRISTOL CITY (0) 0
Blackburn: Arnold, Branagan, Rathbone, Kendall, Keeley, Fazackerley, Garner, Crawford, Lowey, Burke, Speight.
Bristol City: Moller, Stevens, Hay, Aitken, Marshall, Sweeney, Tainton, Fitzpatrick, Mabbutt, Mann, Chandler.

BOLTON (0) 2 (Thomas, Whatmore) 8,461
WATFORD (0) 1 (Armstrong)
Bolton: Poole, Nicholson, Walsh, Reid, Jones, Wilson (Kidd), Nikolic, Whatmore, Thomas, Hoggan, Gowing.
Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Pritchett (Rostron), Taylor, Sims, Bolton, Ward, Blissett, Armstrong, Jackett, Poskett.

BRISTOL ROVERS (1) 1 (Penny) 4,151
SHREWSBURY (1) 1 (Biggins)
Bristol Rovers: McAllister, Gillies, Cooper, McCaffery, Hughes, Emmanuel, Williams (G), Barrett, Randall, Penny (Slatter), Mabbutt.
Shrewsbury: Wardle, King, Leonard, Turner, Griffin, Keay, Tong, Atkins, Dungworth, Biggins, Cross.

CARDIFF (1) 1 (Dwyer) 4,991
PRESTON (0) 3 (Haslegrave, Bruce, Elliott)
Cardiff: Healey, Jones, Sullivan, Briggs, Pontin, Dwyer, Lewis, Kitchen, Stevens, Ronson, Buchanan.
Preston: Tunks, Taylor, Burns, Haslegrave, Baxter, Blackley, Coleman, Bell, Elliott, Houston, Bruce.

DERBY (2) 2 (Osgood pen, Wilson) 17,922
NOTTS CO (1) 2 (Goodwin, Christie)
Derby: Jones, emery, Buckley, Powell (S), Osgood, Powell (B), Reid, Hector, Duncan, Wilson, Emson.
Notts Co: Avramovic, Benjamin, O'Brien, Goodwin, Kilcine, Richards, McCulloch, Masson, Christie, Hunt, Beavon.

BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

Saturday, May 2nd

Arsenal v Aston Villa

ASTON Villa have not done well at Highbury in recent years but few can forget that remarkable game in March, 1962, when Villa emerged winners by the odd goal in nine. At half-time Arsenal were winning 2-1 but in the second-half Villa really went to town. If Saturday's game is half as exciting we shall have had our money's worth.

Since then Villa have won two and drawn three of their ten First Division games at Highbury.

Last November these two sides fought out a 1-1 draw at Villa Park, but it is worth noting that if Saturday's game ends in a draw it will be the first time in the 53 seasons these clubs have met that both games have ended all square.

Liverpool v Sunderland

THIS will be the 118th League clash between these two clubs — that's a lot of football. Liverpool have developed into one of Sunderland's bogey teams in recent years. Sunderland have not won at Anfield since February, 1936, when the result was 3-0 in their favour. Since then they have played 22 League games at Anfield, losing 16 and drawing six.

Last November Liverpool gained a convincing 4-2 win at Roker Park, and if they win again on Saturday it will be their fourth double over Sunderland in as many seasons.

One has to go back to season 1930-31 to find Sunderland completing a League double over Liverpool. Then it was 6-5 at Roker Park and 4-2 at Anfield.

Birmingham v Everton

BIRMINGHAM will really have to pull their socks up against Everton, whom they have not beaten in any of their last 14 League games.

Surprising as it may seem, one has to go back to September, 1972, to find Birmingham beating Everton. On that occasion at St. Andrews Bob Latchford and Trevor Francis scored for the home side while Everton could only manage one through Henry Newton. Since then Everton have won nine of their First Division games with Birmingham, and five have been drawn, including a 1-1 draw last November at Goodison.

Birmingham's home record against Everton is so poor that they have failed to score even a single goal in four of their last six clashes at St. Andrews.

W.B.A. v Tottenham

HAVING already beaten Spurs 3-2 at White Hart Lane earlier this season Albion must be confident of completing the double on Saturday. Spurs, however, have twice beaten Albion at The Hawthorns in their last four League visits, on both occasions victory came with the only goal scored.

This will be Spurs' 49th League visit to The Hawthorns where their biggest victory was 4-2 in December, 1961.



Eamonn Bannon (light strip) beats Aberdeen's Gordon Strachan to the ball.

The players are all so unselfish."

Tactician supremo McLean — the man who deserves enormous credit in building Dundee United into one of the most entertaining, attractive forces in the country — admits: "I was worried with the player's form and the money I had spent when he first came here. His problems probably stemmed from a lack of confidence.

"Eamonn has suffered more criticism from me than any other player."

Bannon realises this because McLean expects high standards from him and the cultured midfielder hasn't shirked those responsibilities. His play this season has been a dream and Jock Stein watched him in action against Rangers in a League game at Ibrox and left extremely impressed.

United walloped Rangers 4-1 that evening, with Bannon scoring with a wonderfully accurate free-kick, and Stein noted the lad's performance.

It's true to say Bannon was disappointing in his full international debut against the Belgians and was eventually substituted in the second-half, but the player has advanced since that nightmarish evening for him and all of his Scottish colleagues.

He has built up his confidence once more, his ability is unquestioned and more honours are just around the corner.

It's a far cry from the day Geoff Hurst told him he wasn't going to make the grade!

CHELSEA REJECT HITS THE JACKPOT

TWO years ago Chelsea manager Geoff Hurst declared that Eamonn Bannon was not good enough for the Stamford Bridge first team.

It didn't matter that former boss Danny Blanchflower had paid out £215,000 to Hearts for him that same season. Hurst was not impressed and made it clear he did not think the Scottish Under-21 midfielder had what it takes to survive in top class English soccer.

Now Bannon, who has won two League Cup medals with Dundee United in successive seasons since the Tannadice club forked out a club record fee of £165,000 to bring him back from Chelsea, and has helped them into the Scottish Cup Final this season, is almost certain to be included in Jock Stein's squad for the forthcoming British Championship series. That could be the springboard to bigger things in Spain next year.

Tannadice manager Jim McLean, who has operated as Stein's number two in the international circuit for the past two years, makes it clear that he leaves the selection of players to the Scotland boss and in no way tries to influence a decision.

But Bannon has been doing so well, playing with confidence and composure in the engine room of the United line-up, that it would be difficult for Stein to ignore his claims for a place in his plans. The same might be said of Paul Sturrock, who has looked a splendid raider this season.

"I played for Scotland's full team against Belgium at Hampden last season in a European Championship match," says Bannon. "But we lost 3-1.

'Develop'

"Obviously I would love to add to that cap some time in the future, but all I can do is keep on playing as well as I can for United and hope that things develop from there."

Bannon, 23, is a mature, well educated young man who has slotted in superbly to United's scheme of things this season after an initial stutter last term.

He pays tribute to his team-mates by saying: "Anything that has been achieved at Tannadice has been the result of team work rather than individuals.

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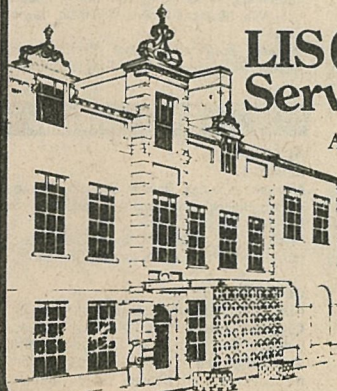
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This week's Star Letter comes from David Daly of Faversham, Kent who wins our Special Prize of £10. He writes:

WHO STEPS DOWN?

★ WHEN Craig Johnston plays for Liverpool, will he get an automatic place in the first team?

Liverpool, for the first time, have paid £650,000. With a sum like that being paid out, Johnston should be used, or will he be in David Fairclough's position, having to wait for someone to be injured before he gets a place in the first team? Whose place will Johnston take?

Ray Kennedy? Surely not. In my opinion Ray is playing as well as ever.

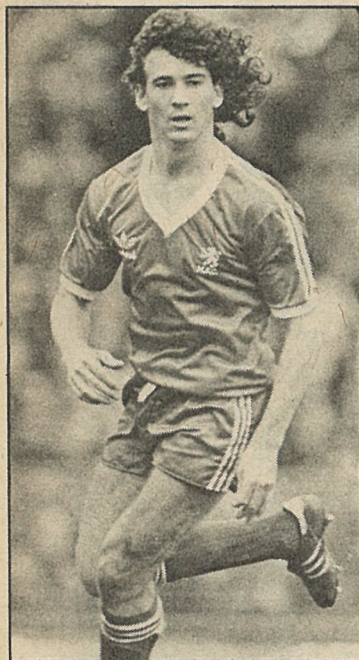
Sammy Lee? Sammy is a great player, and he has got a good future ahead of him at Liverpool.

Graeme Souness? Definitely not! A recent hat-trick against CSKA Sofia shows that he is still an excellent mid-field player.

Terry McDermott? I believe that Terry McDermott is the key man in midfield. Terry may not score many goals, but he makes them.

So where does Johnston fit in?

● The time to buy is when you're at the top ... which is why Liverpool have stayed at the top for so long. My guess is McDermott will be the player to feel the pressure of Johnston's (below) arrival.



Go for skill, Gunners

ARSENAL must be wishing that Liam Brady had stayed just one more season at Highbury. Instead of helping The Gunners to the Championship, Liam has helped Juventus to the top of the Italian First Division.

With the goals that Liam would surely have scored and made I would take Arsenal to be clear at the top by now.

What is puzzling is the fact that Arsenal took so long to step into the transfer market to replace him, and then when they did it was the Crystal Palace and Wales hard-man Peter Nicholas.

Although a highly competitive player, he cannot compare to the silky match-winning skills of the mercurial Irishman.

Perhaps Arsenal should lean more towards skill and ability when next they enter the transfer market to replace the runners, grafters and hard men that currently inhabit the team.

S. EDWARDS,
ABBEE WOOD.

● Brady has done exceptionally well in Italy and has nine goals so far — the top scorer has only 16. Arsenal looked flat at times with Brady ... but without him they've looked even flatter.

Bring on Kendall

YOU asked for the opinion of other Everton fans about the troubles at Goodison Park. I've supported The Blues for ten long seasons during which time not a single trophy has been won — and the last two years have been the worst of all.

When Gordon Lee was appointed manager he said he would consider himself a failure if he had not won something within three years: he's been there over four years!

The potential of the current squad is great, but they need someone to help them progress and the ideal choice is Howard Kendall, who's worked wonders at Blackburn Rovers.

K. RICHARDSON,
HYDE HEATH.

● I received many similar letters from Goodison fans and it does appear that many would like to see Kendall, whose midfield drive helped Everton to the title in 1970, a successor to Lee.

Fox the best

I AM appalled by the media's constant neglect of Britain's best goalkeeper for years — NOTE: not just a mere prospect.

Because Stoke City are a team of artisans and not artists they appear on T.V. infrequently. On one rare appearance Peter Fox (right) made his one and only blunder and manager Alan Durban said in his opinion Fox wasn't a goalkeeper. Still, Garth Crooks was unhappy at Stoke and Durban said he wasn't a striker!

Peter Fox has entertained fans throughout the country with his stunning reflex saves. In the unenviable position of the last line of Stoke's defence he has excelled and should be in the running for international honours.

There is no doubt that had Peter played for a London club or a glamour side he would be recognised for what he is: England's premier 'keeper.

I've only missed one Stoke game this season and I'm sorry to say without him City would be playing Second Division football next season.

STEPHEN FOSTER,
WAKEFIELD.

● I agree playing for a big city club gets a player more publicity, but Ron Greenwood is aware of all his potential stars' capabilities.

Drop Dalglish

I FIRMLY believe Scotland have the ability to win the World Cup in Spain 1982. My main area of concern is that of the forwards, and Scotland's inability to score goals.

I do not doubt Kenny Dalglish's ability, he is capable of producing moments of sheer magic. His record of scoring goals for Scotland is reasonable, but his performances can hardly be called world-class.

The time to drop Dalglish one feels is long overdue. Joe Jordan, when he lined up alongside Dalglish, gave total commitment, Dalglish's contribution was pathetic. Yet Jordan was made the scapegoat and was dropped, Dalglish's reputation ensured his place.

My choice of two front runners would be Andy Gray and Steve Archibald, both having expressed an interest to play alongside one another.

I felt Andy was left in the same boat as Jordan against Israel. Andy and Archibald could become one of the most lethal strike forces in the world.

It is a known fact that Liverpool's and Scotland's build-ups differ in style. Liverpool can play most effectively to Dalglish; however Scotland can not.

People will no doubt be very critical of my views, no doubt because Dalglish has become a god to them.

I plead with Jock Stein to play Andy and Archibald with John Robertson.

J. S. BAINES,
WEDNESFIELD.

● I think Jock Stein needs to get his midfield sorted out first of all, because the service to the front men has been poor. It's a question of finding the right balance — but I can't see Dalglish, Gray, Archibald and Robertson fitting together.

Bad idea

SO CARLISLE have also been voted into the Rugby League, joining Fulham. I have nothing against Rugby, but I believe it is a bad idea for the two sports to use the same stadium.

Pitches could take a real battering in a heavy winter.

JONATHAN MEYER,
CLEETHORPES.

● Rugby brings in much-needed revenue — and Fulham's rugby side has been more successful than the soccer one this season!



ASK THE EXPERT

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Missed kicks

In answer to a recent letter, you mentioned those players who've scored three penalties in a Football League game — but has any team ever missed three?

JUKKA ALA-MELLO,
FINLAND

● Yes, that has happened, Jukka, though not for a long time.

In the First Division, on 27th January, 1912, Manchester City missed all three they were awarded against Newcastle.

And in the Second, on 13th February, 1909, Burnley missed three out of four against Grimsby.

Those four, incidentally, comprised the highest number of penalties awarded to one side in a Football League match.

Welsh League

How many Welsh clubs have played in the Football League since its formation?

DARREN TAYLOR,
MID-GLAMORGAN

● For starters, Darren, there's the current four — Cardiff, Swansea, Newport and Wrexham.

But, in earlier times, there have also been a couple more — Merthyr Town (who played in the old Third Division South between 1920 and 1930); and Aberdare Athletic (in the same Division from 1921 to 1927).

Finn Harps

I'm told my local club, Finn Harps, once played Derby County in a European tie. How did they get on?

ROBERT LOVE,
EIRE

● Not too happily, I'm afraid, Robert — being hammered 16-1 on aggregate.

This was in the U.E.F.A. Cup in September, 1976 — and the first-leg 12-0 scoreline gave Derby their record victory.

SHORT PASSES

● Liam Brady scored 43 goals in 235 League games for Arsenal before joining Juventus.

(GERARD CROSSE, Eire)

● Bolton's record victory is 13-0 — v Sheffield United (F.A. Cup) on 1st February, 1890.

(GARY COCHENILL, Bolton)

● Most points West Bromwich have gained in a season is 60 in 1919-20, when they won the League title.

(PAUL DONNELLY, Coleraine)

Short Passes are replies to readers' letters.

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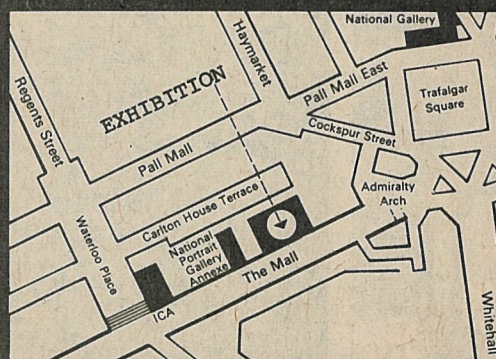
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FEATURING JUDGE DREDD

RICHARD Money, Liverpool's promising young defender, is burdened by an increasing sense of insecurity.

He desperately wants to prove himself on Merseyside to silence the Liverpool fans who associate him with the club's slump earlier this season.

"They haven't seen the best of me," he says. "I desperately want to win the respect of supporters and the other player's too."

League football was his oyster when England's hierarchy respected his talented performances for Fulham by drafting him into the "B" international squad.

His big moment came when Alan Sunderland limped off against New Zealand on October 17, 1979 and Money strode on to the pitch in the number 12 shirt.

Struggles

That brief moment of glory is history as he struggles to persuade Bob Paisley that he is worth a first team place at Anfield.

"I need one or two good, solid performances," he says. "Once they believe I'm a good player then I'll feel a lot more comfortable. Maybe that's half the problem — I'm trying too hard."

A crippling injury list cost Liverpool the chance of a hat-trick of League titles. But the club's misfortune this season let Richard Money in.

He joined The Reds from Fulham during the last close season, and

**RICHARD
MONEY**
aiming to
silence the Kop

was fully expecting to serve a harsh apprenticeship with the reserve team. But Liverpool have suffered so many injuries that Money was given his chance a lot earlier than expected.

"I made my debut against Coventry City, at Anfield, in the middle of November," he says. "Both Alan Kennedy and Avi Cohen, his deputy, were injured, so the boss turned to me. Although I naturally hoped to be given my big chance this season, when it came it was a shock."

"Then came another bombshell. Bob Paisley told me I'd be playing at left-back — a position I'm certainly not used to. But I couldn't afford to be fussy."

"I suppose if the club hadn't suffered so many injuries, then I'd still be waiting for my chance in the reserves," says Money.

"Naturally I noticed the difference in pace and fitness in the First Division."

"Even if I became a first team regular I wouldn't feel secure. In fact, Ray Clemence and Kenny Dalglish apart, I don't suppose

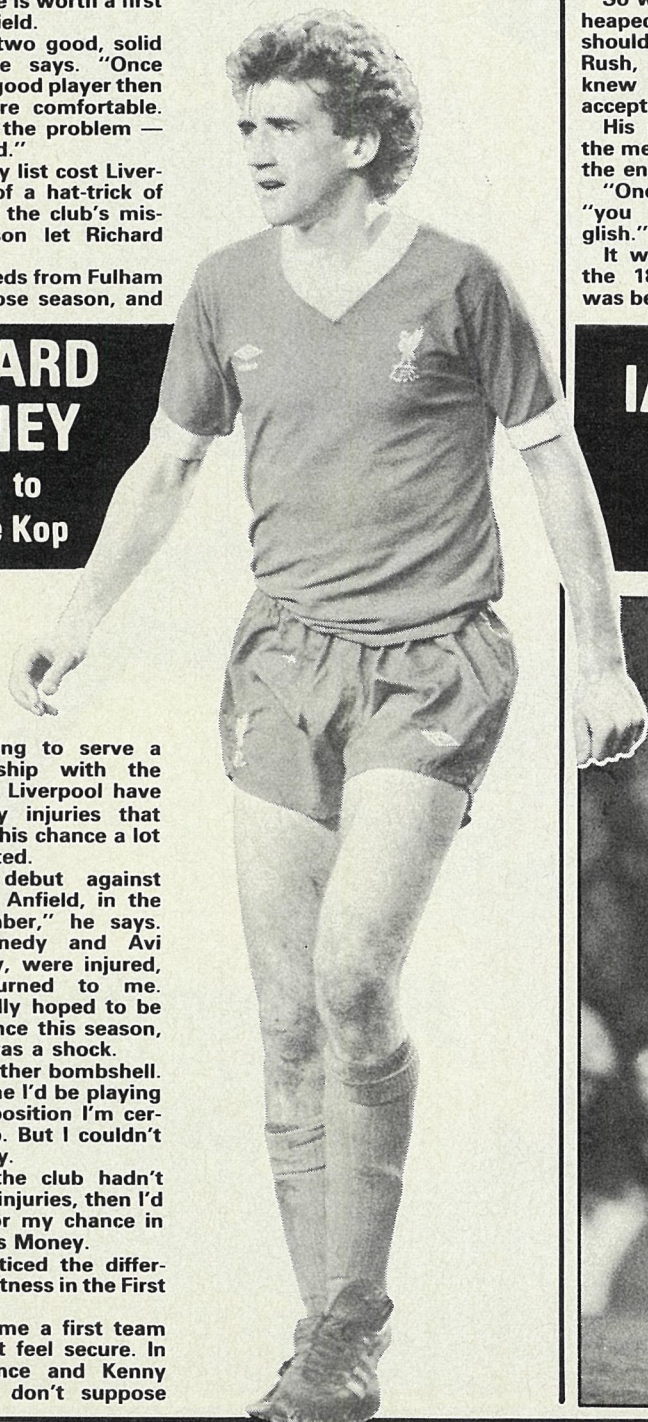
Liverpool's injury crisis gave them their big chance...

anybody does here."

At 24 Money is hardly a youngster. But he has time on his side.

"I have two years of a very good contract still to run," he says. "If I'm faced with another spell in the reserves I'll battle to get back."

"Once you've tasted first team football at Anfield you don't want to think about playing elsewhere."



LAWRIE McMenemy and John Bond, two of the more exuberant managers, take great pleasure in telling the world how good their star players are.

Bob Paisley, Liverpool's manager, is from another school. If the Anfield boss praises a player, he has undoubtedly turned in a fantastic performance.

So when the Liverpool manager heaped praise upon the young shoulders of his new striker, Ian Rush, the former Chester star, knew he had at last been truly accepted on Merseyside.

His magic moment came after the medals had been dished out at the end of the League Cup Final.

"One day," drawled Paisley, "you could replace Kenny Dalglish."

It was the ultimate tribute for the 18-year-old goalscorer who was beginning to wonder whether

IAN RUSH
could replace
Dalglish

he would ever make the grade in the wake of such superstar strikers as Dalglish, David Johnson and David Fairclough.

Life had been hard in Liverpool reserves, playing to audiences of hundreds rather than thousands.

He never expected to make the grade in his first season at Liverpool but he was a superstar hero in Chester before his £300,000 transfer.

"I was very happy at Chester," said Rush. "Had Liverpool not come in for me I would have been content to stay at Sealand Road."

"But when it came to the crunch, well there was no way I could say no to a club like Liverpool, was there?"

Rush capped a remarkable first season in football by representing Wales in the last British Championship series. Then it was down to the serious business at Anfield.

Unlucky

His first chance to make an impression passed him by. Rush was drafted in as a replacement for Kenny Dalglish at Ipswich on December 13. Unlucky for Rush.

He didn't produce the goods and was back in the reserves.

It was the League Cup Final replay against West Ham in March before he surfaced again. This time he played alongside Kenny Dalglish.

"Kenny made all the difference," Rush explained. "It is so easy to play with him. He makes so many intelligent runs, creating space even if he doesn't want the ball."

This time Rush made his mark. He played in Liverpool's next fixture, a League game against Stoke City, on merit.

With a League Cup winners' medal to show after just two full games for Liverpool, Ian Rush's future looks assured once he has completed his apprenticeship at Anfield.

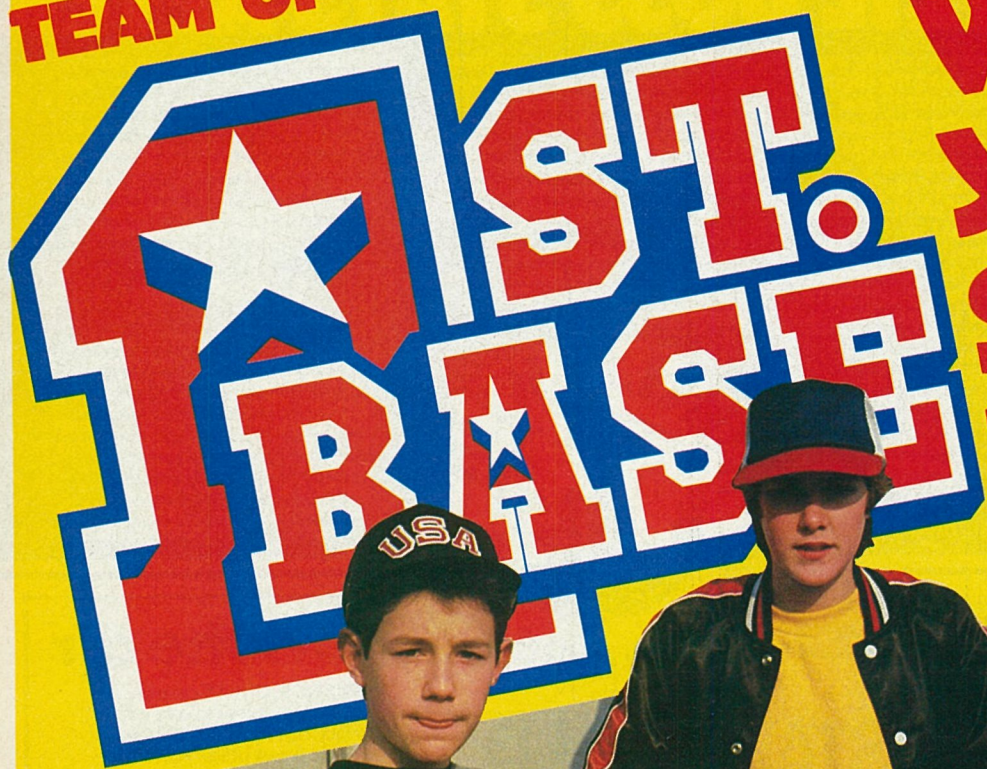




Southampton striker Mike Channon controls the ball under the watchful eye of Everton full-back John Gidman.

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BRAZIL BOSS STAYS AFTER

AFTER a series of episodes that at some points had the dignity of high drama, but most of the time resembled just a cheap soap opera, Brazilian team manager Telê Santana (left) and the Brazilian Football Confederation agreed to renew his contract until the end of the World Cup. To be more precise, until the end of 1982. The problem hinged on the fact Santana was earning only £1,300 a month. More than a month before his contract was to expire he began to give ominous Press interviews, hinting at first and then stating quite clearly that he would leave the job if CBF didn't pay him £5,800 a month for the first 12 months, plus an advance of six months' pay, and £6,900 a month after the first 12 months. To make matters more

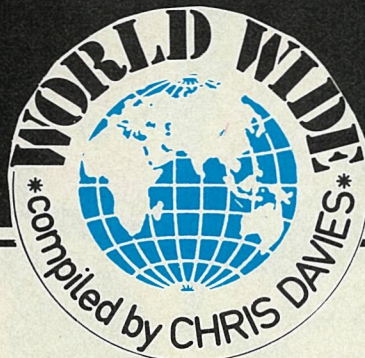
complicated, CBF officials were saying privately that Telê Santana had been downright rude in his interviews to the Press, in which he not only discussed his wages, but also the fact he admitted there was no interference whatsoever from the officials in managing the Brazilian team.

The implication was that officials had tried to interfere on more than one occasion. That supposition seemed quite

believable, for everybody knows the CBF top hats ("cartolas" as they are known in Brazil) would like to have three goalkeepers in the Brazilian squad, not just two. Telê's insistence on having just two made things difficult both in the Copa de Oro and in the qualifying games for the World Cup.

Defence

In the Copa de Oro, Brazil goalkeeper Carlos was injured against Argentina and only by special deference of the other competing nations (and against the vote of hosts Uruguay), Brazil could call another goalkeeper (Valdir Peres) to the squad. In the qualifying game against Venezuela, in Caracas, goalkeeper



Goal shortage

THE SHORTAGE of goals was the dominant note in Group Two of the Asia/Oceania World Cup preliminary rounds, in which only 18 goals were scored in ten matches and in only two games did both teams manage to hit the net.

For the record, here's the final table, with Saudi Arabia qualifying for the next phase:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Saudi Arabia	4	4	0	0	5	0	8
Iraq	4	3	0	1	5	2	6
Qatar	4	2	0	2	5	3	4
Bahrain	4	1	0	3	1	6	2
Syria	4	0	0	4	2	7	0

NÃO FIQUE TRISTE. DEVIDO A INFLAÇÃO, ESTE 6 A ZERO PRA NÓS BRASILEIROS SO VALE 2 A UM!



INFLATION in Brazil, now running at over 100 per cent is, of course, a daily conversation topic all over the country. This prompted Jornal do Brasil to publish the following cartoon the day after Brazil beat Ecuador 6-0.

"Don't be sad... due to inflation, the 6-0 score is only worth 2-1 in Brazil!"

SPAIN WILL have paid for their World Cup by November! That's the forecast made by the 1982 hosts following figures released by the state-run pools organisation.

Each line on the Spanish pools means about 1/4p for the World Cup coffers, and this season's record takings have exceeded expectations to such an extent that the organisers reckon to have pocketed enough cash to pay for the whole event by November.

They haven't mentioned what they'll do with the profits.

BARCELONA have fined their West German star Bernd Schuster £520 for picking up his seventh yellow card and second suspension in 18 matches.

BOTH STARS SOLD



SOMETIMES football is difficult to understand. At the beginning of the season Valencia had formed a red-hot attack by signing Uruguayan ace Fernando Morena to join Mario Kempes.

Now, in less than a month, and in the middle of Valencia's Spanish title bid, they've sold both of them!

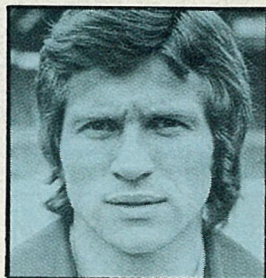
After Kempes' £1,600,000 move to River Plate everyone felt that Morena would stay.

But the Uruguayan's old club Peñarol moved in with a £475,000 bid... and Valencia accepted!

● Picture shows Morena just before his return to Montevideo.

News flashes

● Within three years, Uwe Rahn will have established himself as a new Günter Netzer. That is the claim made by Borussia Monchengladbach coach Jupp Heynckes (below). Rahn, only 18, has established himself this season in the Bundesliga team after being signed for £75,000 from VfR Mannheim.



● Still seeking an adequate replacement for Kevin Keegan, Hamburger SV have been watching Vahid Halilhodzic, the 28-year-old international striker of Yugoslav First

Division club Velez Mostar. If he signs for HSV he will be the 52nd Yugoslav to play in the Bundesliga since it was formed in 1963.

● Argentina's international striker Ramon Diaz has lost his first team place with his club River Plate! Since the incorporation of Mario Kempes into the star-studded River squad, there simply isn't room for the 21-year-old currently rated as one of the continent's top strikers.

● Nice gesture from Diego Maradona (right), who invited Mario Kempes and his parents for lunch on the day after El Matador's arrival back in Buenos Aires. "I knew he'd travelled alone, and that he'd had to leave his wife and daughter in Valencia, so I thought he might like some company and home cooking," explained Diego.

● Tizi Ouzou took over at the top of the Algerian First Division by thrashing Collo 9-0, with Bahbouh hitting a hat-trick. This win gave them a goal-average lead over RS Kouba in a 'crazy' League where only four points separate

the top six. With a win worth three points, the difference is minimal!

● The West German F.A. have finally decided to go ahead and form a Bundesliga Second Division on a national scale for



next season. At present, 22 clubs (Second Division North) and 20 clubs (Second Division South) play in the regional competition. Of the 42 clubs, 27 have applied for 20 places and the F.A. must decide which clubs form the new League. The minimum requirements will be a stadium with at least a 20,000 capacity, 3,000 seats and floodlights of 700 Lux.

Off the air

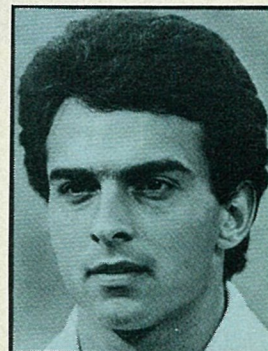
FRENCH club Olympique Marseille have really hit rock-bottom. They've long since been plagued with financial problems and now the club has announced they haven't even got enough cash to pay the electricity bill.

The electricity company chose a dramatic moment to cut off the supply — just as manager Albert Batteux was being interviewed in front of French TV cameras!

RUMANIA have a giant-killer in their F.A. cup this season. Little-known Division Three club Sti-la Ariesul Turda, whose players train only twice a week, beat Steaua, the Rumanian Army team 6-5 on penalties after a 1-1 draw to reach the Semi-Finals, which no Third Division club had done before.

● Bayern Munich have arranged a pre-season tournament to be staged in Aachen on July 18th and 19th. The local team Alemannia Aachen will take part together with the Dutch clubs Ajax and PSV Eindhoven.

● VfB Stuttgart have £750,000 in reserve to spend on new players for next season. At a Press Conference it was announced Hansi Müller (below) the local favourite will definitely not be leaving, and their number one target is the Cologne international centre forward Dieter Müller.



HIGH DRAMA

João Leite sat on the bench with a broken finger, unable to play even if called upon. He sat there purely as a dummy to fool the Venezuelans and prevent them from purposely injuring goalkeeper Valdir Peres.

Had Valdir Peres been injured, defender Edinho would have played in goal. Brazil won 1-0, with a penalty.

The CBF had said that at the most it would treble Telê's wages, and had already decided on his substitute: Nelsinho, a young and relatively unknown coach, presently coaching Fluminense from Rio de Janeiro.

To protect young Nelsinho, the officials would resuscitate the job of Supervisor. This was to be Carlos Alberto Parreira, presently managing the national team of

Kuwait.

After more than four hours of discussions, the two parties eventually came to an agreement.

Telê is now to get £4,400 a month through his contract, and five months' pay in advance. He is not to get bonuses at twice the rate of players, as he also had demanded.

Telê said he only lowered his terms because he had been asked by all the players to stay on as manager.

In the end, everybody seemed happy and Brazilians could turn their attention to other pressing matters. Like: will Ronald Biggs be allowed by the government of Barbados to come back to his son?

● Midfielder Batista has broken a leg and will miss the game at Wembley on May 12.

The Champions prepare...



THE ARGENTINE FA has released details of the World Champions' preparation programme for their title defence in Spain next year.

In 1981, Menotti will get his squad together for training sessions on 15 occasions between April and August.

On August 10th, the squad will assemble in Buenos Aires, and on the 17th they'll head for Europe on a four-match tour.

Next year, Menotti will get his World Cup squad together on February 14th and they'll stay together until the Finals are over — which means that Argentine clubs will have to play the whole of the National Championship without their international stars.

By the time Argentina open the Finals in Barcelona on June 13th, they'll have played a further 15 preparation matches.

TOUGH DRAW FOR ENGLAND

THE DRAW has been made for the Finals of the World Youth Championship to be held in Australia in October. England are in a tough group along with World Champions Argentina and host nation Australia, but here's the full draw for the four preliminary groups:

Group A: USA, Uruguay, Poland, Qatar
Group B: Rumania, Brazil, Italy, South Korea
Group C: West Germany, Spain, Mexico, Egypt
Group D: Australia, Argentina, England, Cameroon

The tournament kicks off on October 3rd, and the Final is scheduled for the 18th.

GREEK CLUB AEK Athens have fined their entire squad £18,000 for 'constant infringements of club regulations'. Apparently, the players' sins include oversleeping, arriving late for training, staying out till the early hours, and ignoring the manager's tactical instructions.

THE MINISTER for Sport in Holland, worried by mounting debts of the First and Second Division clubs, has recommended a cut of ten per cent in salaries paid to players.

Tbilisi Cup K.O.

DYNAMO TBILISI, recent conquerors of West Ham in the European Cup-winners' Cup, have been eliminated from the 1981 Russian Cup at the Quarter-Finals stage beaten 2-1 away by Ararat Erevan.

Linking the two sides, West Ham met Ararat the last time they took part in the Cup-Winners Cup, but that time they won.

The Cup Final will be staged in Moscow on 9th May so that the winners can compete in next season's European competition. But holders Schaktjor Donezk will not be in the Final, knocked out by Spartak Moscow 1-0, watched by a crowd of 125,000.

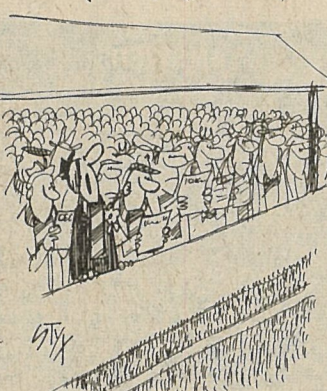
FOOTBALL FUNNIES



"The last time my husband took me out was when we went to Blackpool to watch Stanley Matthews."



"But I didn't charge him in the back, ref. It was a clean, straight forward shoulder charge."



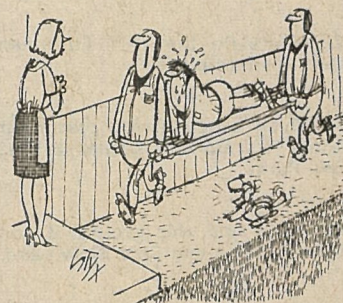
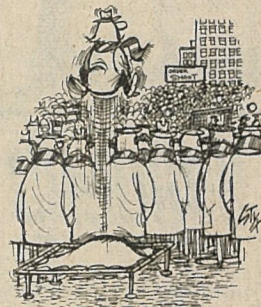
"Vultures, Bert, and this is only a friendly."



This week Tommy Langley, who scored his first goals for Crystal Palace against Birmingham recently, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"It seems the only way we can save the club is to sell the ground for building development."

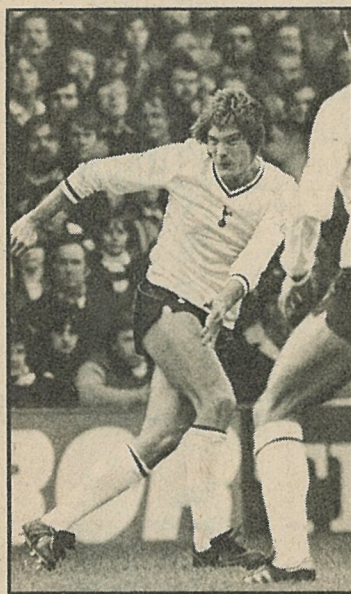


"He pulled a back muscle in training."

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TAKE A BREAK—IT'S

Quiz Time



SEMI-FINALS

The F.A. Cup and Scottish Cup Semi-Finals were played recently. Can you answer the following questions about the ties?

1. Manchester City gained a place in the 100th F.A. Cup Final when they beat favourites Ipswich Town 1-0 at Villa Park. Did captain Paul Power score the only goal (above) in the first or second-half of extra-time?
2. Tottenham's Glenn Hoddle (left) was penalised for fouling which Wolves player to give away a last minute penalty which Willie Carr scored to equalise at 2-2?
3. Did Celtic and Dundee United draw their first game 0-0, 1-1 or 2-2 at Hampden Park?
4. In the other Semi, Rangers defeated Morton 2-1. Where was the game played?

GROUND

1. Fourth Division York City play their home games at Bootham Road, Lane or Crescent?
2. Where do the 1978 European Cup winners play?
3. Which Scottish club play their home First Division games at East End Park?
4. You'll find this ground if you take a walk along Cold Blow Lane.
5. Which clubs play at (a) Priestfield Stadium, (b) Manor Ground, (c) Elm Park and (d) The Valley?

ANSWERS:

SEMI-FINALS 1. First-half 2. Kenny Hibbitt 3. 0-0 4. Parkhead, home of Celtic
MANAGERS 1. Sunderland 2. Blackpool 3. Aldershot 4. Leeds United 5. Fulham 6. Tranmere Rovers 7. Newcastle United 8. Millwall 9. Bristol City 10. Swindon Town
TRUE OR FALSE False — it has 2 True 3 True 4 False — he never played for Scotland 5 True
TRACE A-TEAM Judge Findlay Price Jones Donaghy Saxby West Grealish Madden Ingram Moss Hutton

TRACE-A-TEAM

The names of 12 past or present Luton Town players are spelt out in this frame in straight lines, either horizontally, vertically or diagonally and forwards or backwards. How many can you find?

L	T	A	N	G	B	M	D	V	O	G	Y
N	O	G	P	A	A	E	L	A	B	H	B
C	L	S	O	D	P	S	T	N	G	B	X
D	H	F	D	R	A	I	S	A	L	O	A
N	D	E	I	H	O	N	N	O	P	A	S
S	N	C	S	N	S	O	E	G	M	N	G
E	E	R	W	T	D	I	R	A	R	N	S
S	P	O	R	E	M	L	L	T	B	A	O
E	A	R	G	D	S	W	A	A	H	A	M
N	T	D	A	S	H	T	A	Y	E	M	B
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J	L	E	M	R	S	G	L	W	N	R	G

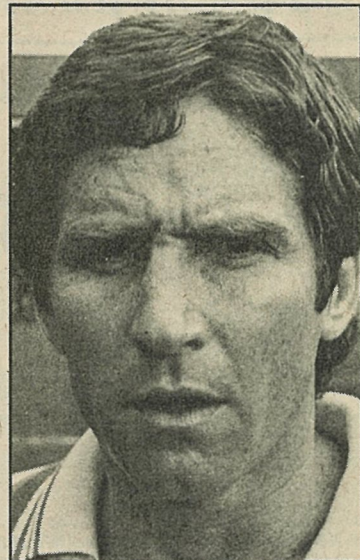
TRUE or FALSE

1. Second Division Wrexham's Racecourse Ground has never been used for any full internationals by Wales.
2. Chesterfield beat Notts County in the Final of this season's Anglo-Scottish Cup tournament.
3. Arsenal were formerly known as Royal Arsenal before they changed their name to Woolwich Arsenal.
4. Leicester City manager Jock Wallace (below) appeared three times for the full Scotland international side during the 1960's.
5. Premier Division side St Mirren are nicknamed The Buddies.



MANAGERS

The following managers have either been sacked or resigned this season. Can you name their former clubs?



1. Ken Knighton
2. Alan Ball (above)
3. Tom McArdney
4. Jimmy Adamson
5. Bobby Campbell
6. John King
7. Bill McGarry
8. George Petchey
9. Alan Dicks
10. Bobby Smith.

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Don't miss next week's special Cup Finals issue. Order your copy NOW!

WHEN Liverpool dropped out of the Championship race, you said you fancied Ipswich Town to take the title as they were a better balanced, more mature side than Aston Villa. Now that Villa are odds-on to become Champions, have you changed your mind? And if you were a manager and could sign a player from each team, which would you buy?"

Two questions from reader Ian Marshall of Lowestoft, really putting me on the spot.

But I'm sticking to my guns on selecting Ipswich as a better side than Villa, even though there is very little to choose between them. Ipswich have, for me, played tremendously entertaining football, and it will be a tragedy if they end the campaign without anything to put in their showcase.

It was ironic they should eliminate Villa as early as the Third Round of the F.A. Cup, allowing their nearest rivals to concentrate on the League.

I can sympathise with Ipswich about their heavy work-load, something we've had to live with at Liverpool through many consecutive years of competing in Europe.

As for which players I'd choose, they would be of the type in such

Villa's Ken McNaught and Ipswich's Alan Brazil duel in The Blues' 1-0 win Portman Road.



little "give" there'll be more wear and tear on joints, and consequently players' careers will be shortened. It definitely discourages sliding tackles because it burns the skin.

It also requires changes in technique. Playing on an artificial pitch in Dubai, I found the ball bounced around 18 inches higher, and gave me trouble with my timing.

"Were you surprised when Liverpool signed Craig Johnston from Middlesbrough? He reminds me so much of Kevin Keegan in his looks and style of play." So writes Bill McPherson of Berwick on Tweed.

I wasn't surprised the club decided to sign someone, as it's always been policy to reinforce the squad before it ever becomes vitally necessary. The boss, Bob Paisley, believes in looking ahead.

But I was surprised we bought a midfielder, where we're well served with good players, instead of some-

'By beating Villa in the F.A. Cup, Ipswich allowed them to concentrate on the Championship'

one who can play up front. With injuries to Dave Johnson and Davey Fairclough, we've been a bit short on firepower.

I suspect, though, the boss is looking to Ian Rush, who soon impressed, particularly in the League Cup Final replay, to remedy any problems in that department.

After watching his "hero", Terry McDermott, Craig grimaced: "Looks like I'll be winning several Central League medals before I get into the first team."

Pre-season Training

If I'm any judge, he'll be pushing for a first team place at the start of next season after pre-season training and friendly warm-up games.

As for resembling Kevin, he'll prove real value for money if he can get anywhere near being as successful as Kev was in a Liverpool shirt.

This Saturday, Sunderland provide the opposition for our last Saturday home game of the season, and will be keen to underline their right to a place in the top Division after gaining promotion last season.

As I predicted, Sunderland have achieved a safe, mid-table spot, but failed to challenge seriously for any honours.

I think it's disgraceful manager Ken Knighton and his assistant, Frank Clark, have been sacked even before the season has ended. Their treatment spotlights one of the injustices in the game.

I hope their fate never befalls me when I move into the managerial sphere.

Ray Clemence



Ray Clemence
TALKING SOCCER

short supply — men who can score goals. So from Ipswich I'd take Paul Mariner, nearest thing to a perfect centre-forward in the Football League aside from Kenny Dalglish; and from Villa young Gary Shaw. He just had the decision over defender Allan Evans, who apart from being a tower of strength in the back-four can go forward and get goals.

'Human Tank'

Goalscoring — or the lack of it — is on the mind of Jack Finneston of Oldham, who writes: "One of the reasons the game has lost support is because of the drop in goals. Don't you think it would be a good idea to bring back the old-fashioned big, bustling centre-forward who ploughed through defences like a human tank?"

Today's game is much more professional and sophisticated, and the emphasis is on brain rather than brawn simply because defenders are more mobile and skilful.

The head down and charge merchants have disappeared from the top club and international levels.

This was also partly due to referees granting 'keepers protection and preventing them from being used as human punch-bags.

One veteran 'keeper told me

'I was surprised Liverpool signed a midfielder man'

'Ipswich STILL better than Villa'

once it wasn't unusual for him to pull off his jersey after a game and find teeth marks on his shoulders!

Those big strikers around now are very different from their predecessors, possessing the ability to turn defenders with body swerves and close ball control. The likes of David Cross, Peter Withe and Justin Fashanu.

Turning the clock back will not create more goals. The solution is for every outfield player to become a goalscorer.

"How do you feel about the introduction of Astroturf. Is it a good or bad thing?" asks Mary Houston of my home town, Skegness.

The advantages are that a club opting for artificial grass will save money on maintenance costs — it won't have to employ an army of groundsman working through the week at times to make a pitch fit for play, and the surface lasts longer than grass.

The disadvantages mainly relate to the players. The surface has such



AT £800,000, Steve Archibald had shattered the Tottenham Hotspur club record with his move from Aberdeen last May.

The Spurs fans, impatient for success, greeted his arrival in North London with understandable enthusiasm, and great things were expected of the Scottish international striker.

Yet amid all the publicity, Steve Archibald remained impassive.

"The size of the fee didn't worry me because it is simply impossible to relate to that sort of money," he explained.

Nevertheless, the arrival of £600,000 Garth Crooks from Stoke certainly helped to ease the pressure on him, and Archibald admits he was glad that he wasn't to be the only new boy at White Hart Lane.

"Our pre-season training sessions went well and I felt very happy. I got on well with Garth and struck up an immediate understanding with him.

"A lot of our partnership is instinctive, but we've had to work very hard on developing an understanding. We still have room for improvement."

But if things were going well in training, Archibald knew the big test would come when the season began in earnest, against European Champions Nottingham Forest at White Hart Lane last August.

DEBUT GOALS

Crooks scored in a 2-0 victory in front of 43,000 fans, and Steve joined him on the scoresheet three days later during the 4-3 win at Crystal Palace.

But then came a barren spell, with Steve's only goals in a ten-match period coming in the League Cup against Orient.

"It took me a while to adjust to the English game," he admits.

"That period shook my confidence.

"In Scotland, defenders are actually in contact with you all the time. They don't wait around, they come straight through you to get the ball.

"But down here the tackle from behind is virtually outlawed. Defenders stand a yard off and then try to nick the ball off your feet.

"I lost my bearings, because I didn't know where my marker was. But I was sure it would come right in the end."

The STEVE ARCHIBALD STORY FINAL PART

The famine finally came to an end with a goal in the 3-2 defeat of Stoke at the Victoria Ground, and since then Steve Archibald has not looked back.

He has led the First Division goalscorer's list virtually since that moment, and has become the biggest crowd favourite at White Hart Lane since Jimmy Greaves.

"The fans have been fabulous," Steve confides. "Even when I was going through that sticky patch they never got on my back."

Archibald now reckons that his move to England has made him a much better striker.

"My finishing has improved and I'm a lot sharper now. But my general play has suffered because

of it. I'm concentrating solely on scoring goals, so I don't get as involved in other areas of the play. But as long as I'm doing the job I was signed to do, I don't reckon the boss will complain," he says.

GREAT HODDLE

Archibald is quick to give credit to his new team-mates for his incredible success this season — in particular midfield men Glenn Hoddle and Ossie Ardiles.

"I couldn't get by without them, they are like an oxygen supply to me," he says.

"When I first came from Aberdeen I didn't really rate Glenn, but now I can honestly say he is the most skilful player I have ever seen. It's amazing that he isn't yet an England regular.

"I was a bit worried when I came down, because of the way the midfield had used the forwards as a wall for a quick return pass last season.

"I'm sure it wasn't something they did deliberately, but as Glenn scored so many goals he obviously kept playing that way.

"Garth and I are both quick, sharp forwards who like the ball played in to our feet for a turn and shot at goal.

"We told the midfield men we wouldn't be used just to get the ball back to them as quickly as possible.

"Now Glenn and Ossie are always looking for a quick, killer ball and it has worked very well."

The season has produced some memorable moments for Steve, and now he is hoping for at least one more — to lift the F.A. Cup at Wembley next week.

"That would be the perfect climax to a remarkable season," he says.

"I've only been to Wembley once before — to watch an England v Scotland game. I've always dreamed of playing there, and now I can hardly wait. Manchester City



Glenn Hoddle.

'I'M A BETTER -BUT A WORSE



Archibald has struck up an understanding with Garth Crooks (left). The former Aberdeen striker rates David O'Leary (right) the best defender he has faced.

will give us some problems, but I'm confident we can beat them." Should Spurs succeed in lifting the Cup, Steve Archibald will earn the undying gratitude of the Tottenham faithful.

DEADLY RIVALS

He has already gone a long way to achieving that distinction with his part in the 2-0 League defeat of deadly rivals Arsenal in the League at White Hart Lane in January.

"We played them at their place at the beginning of the season and lost 2-0. It didn't really bother me, but some of the lads were really upset about it.

"But since then, the rivalry has rubbed off on me. I now realise it is important as a Rangers v Celtic game to the North London football followers, and my goals in the return at White Hart Lane were two of the most satisfying I have scored so far."

Archibald singles out David O'Leary as the best defender he has faced so far, and reckons that his best game came in the 5-3 defeat of Ipswich just before Christmas.

A PROBLEM

He has happily settled into his new home in the countryside

surroundings of Hertfordshire, although his baby daughter Emma has not found the move so easy.

"When we lived in Aberdeen, Emma would sleep for 12 hours of the day, but now she always seems to be awake. It is a worrying problem for Maureen and I, but I expect she will settle down eventually."

That domestic problem apart, the past 12 months could hardly have gone better for Steve Archibald — as he spells out.

"My move to Spurs has meant a boost to my international career, recognition as one of top strikers in the League and a place in the F.A. Cup Final.

"I am earning more money, have

a bigger house and a bigger car and have made many new friends.

"Keith Burkinshaw recently described me as something of a loner, but he's wrong.

"I get on fine with all the lads, and although I like to be on my own at times, I don't really understand what Keith meant by that.

"Since my move from Aberdeen, I have had a lot of people coming up to me in the street wishing me luck and asking for my autograph.

"Although I love the crowds singing my name, I don't really like the publicity off the park. When I was in Aberdeen I was a big fish in a small pond, but now people seem to recognise me wherever I go.

"But at least everybody has been very friendly . . . I don't seem to have met any Arsenal fans yet!"

With the F.A. Cup Final just around the corner, and the possibility of world wide projection with Scotland during next year's World Cup Finals, it is a fair bet that the name of Steve Archibald will make a lot more headlines yet.

STRIKER PLAYER!"



Steve beats the Arsenal defence to score his first goal in the North London derby at White Hart Lane this season.

REFS ROB EIRE OF WORLD CUP GLORY

HAVING led their group for 12 months, it now looks as if Eire will not after all make history by qualifying for the World Cup Finals for the first time.

They are not out yet, but they must take maximum points from their two remaining games, away to Holland and home to France, to have any hope of qualifying. And if their bad luck continues it's unlikely that Eoin Hand's men will make it to Spain '82.

There is an old saying "The Luck of the Irish." Nobody knows exactly where it came from, but it certainly didn't come from a FIFA referee!

Five times in the last four years Eire have literally been robbed by referees, who ended their hopes of qualifying for the 1978 World Cup and now the present series. True, the Irish have not been impressive away from home in the past, but with weak referees they have not been given a chance.

The bad run of "home-town decisions" began in Paris in November, 1976, when Frank Stapleton headed in what looked like a perfectly good goal at a vital stage in a World Cup game against France. Referee: M. Maksimovic of Yugoslavia.

The following June in Sofia, Eire were again to suffer from a bad decision by a FIFA official. Greek referee Niki Zlatanos disallowed a shot by Johnny Giles which would have given Eire a 1-0 lead over Bulgaria.

That game ended in a brawl with the referee flashing red cards at two players from each side. An official protest was made to FIFA by the F.A. of Ireland and a request made to have the game replayed. However, in hindsight, it was probably foolish to accept a referee from a neighbouring country.

Hopeful

Just over a year ago, Eire travelled to Cyprus and came away with two points on the first step of the hopeful road to Spain. But they were again robbed of a 'goal' by Israeli referee Zvi Sharir, who also gave the Cypriots a controversial penalty late in the game.

Worse was to follow in Paris last October when Michael Robinson scored what he thought was a perfect debut goal. Kevin Moran was adjudged to have handled the ball, but TV evidence later showed that the ball hit him in the face. Referee: A. Lame Castilla of Spain.

However, the last straw came in Brussels last month. Portuguese referee Fernandes Nazzare had his back to the play when Liam Brady's free-kick found his former Arsenal colleague Frank Stapleton, who 'scored' just before half-time. The move was similar to one worked at Highbury several times.

Now the FAI have protested to FIFA again and they have sent a video recording of the game to Dr Artinio Franchi, the chairman of the Referee's Committee.

Apart from the honour of qualifying for a World Cup Final place, these decisions have cost Eire dearly. It's impossible to put an exact figure on the amount of money lost to players and adminis-

trators, but it could run into millions. Also the domestic game badly needs a boost in a country where soccer has to compete with the longer established game of Gaelic football, hurling and rugby.

The general feeling in Ireland is that they have been hard done by because they are such a small nation. The same thing would not happen to a more powerful country.

It looks like the only way Eire will ever qualify for the World Cup Finals is by having an English referee, who understands the off-side rule. Who is to say that the countries are too close? They are no nearer than Bulgaria and Greece!



ABOVE: Frank Stapleton 'scores' against the Belgians

LEFT: Michael Robinson 'scores' against the French.

RIGHT: Eire manager Eoin Hand complains to referee Fernandes Nazzare after the game in Belgium.



EMLYN Hughes readily admits that this season has been the toughest of his entire career.

In those incredible years with Liverpool, all he'd ever known was winning. Medals, Cups or caps, it didn't seem to matter which... they all arrived with almost monotonous regularity. And last term he kept the record going by lifting the Football League Cup with Wolverhampton Wanderers.

This season though, it's been very much a case of life on the other side of the soccer coin for the former England skipper.

Setting aside their form in the F.A. Cup, Wolves have struggled all season in the League. And Emlyn, for his part, struggled first to keep his name out of the ref's note book, then to get his name on to Wolves first team sheet.

"I'm not daft enough to say I've actually enjoyed what's happened to me. Who would? But it has given me a marvellous insight into an aspect of football that I previously knew nothing about.

"In all my time in the game, I've never finished lower than sixth

management. I've never made any secret of that. So if the right offer comes along, then I'll have to give it serious consideration.

"One thing I shan't be doing is leaving here to join another club purely as a player.

"Player-manager would be different. That would give me the opportunity to continue playing — something I've always wanted to do for as long as I could — as well as easing me into the business of management."

Emlyn, never far from the sporting headlines throughout his career, had more than his fair share in the opening months of the present campaign. Unfortunately, they were all for the wrong reasons. He's never been one to give less than 100 per cent total commitment in everything he's done. Always hard — but fair. Yet in the first half of the season his disciplinary record of eight bookings, 30 penalty points and two suspensions left him shaking his head in disbelief.

"In the cold light of day that record makes me out to be a right

football villain," he said. "But it wasn't like that at all.

"It was just that I got very silly, and very careless with what I said to referees. I've never been the type of player to hide my feelings. But obviously the referees I clashed with thought I went too far — and booked me for it.

"It was my second suspension — for three matches — that ultimately cost me my place in the side. I missed 14 League and Cup games before I finally got my foot back in the door, so to speak, returning for the F.A. Cup Semi-Final against Spurs."

One thing it hasn't done, though, is affect that famous Hughes grin. It's still as bright and wide as ever. And we hope it stays that way, whether it be on the field, or from a manager's chair.

During his 12 years with Liverpool, Emlyn won no less than ten major club honours. He helped them to the Football League Championship in 1972/73, 1975/76, 1976/77 and 1978/79. He also helped them to the F.A. Cup in 1974 when Liverpool beat Newcastle 3-0 in the Final. In Europe, Emlyn skippered Liverpool to their two European Cup Final victories in 1977 and 1978 and was also a member of the sides which won the U.E.F.A. Cup in 1973 and 1976 and the Super Cup in 1977. His move to Wolves in 1979 completed his set of domestic medals when he led his new side to the League Cup Final victory over Nottingham Forest. He has also gained 62 full England caps.

FAILURE WILL MAKE EMLYN A BETTER BOSS

place in the First Division. And that was with Wolves last year. So this season, with the club spending most of it's time in the wrong half of the table, I've been learning a great deal about how people — especially yours truly — cope with the less successful times.

"My two-year contract with Wolves ends in the summer," explained Emlyn. "I've already told them if they really wanted me to stay, then I'd be willing to sign on for an extra season. But being out of the side, as I have this season, has been very hard for me to accept.

"To be absolutely honest, I don't think I could take another season of that. Training hard all week, just to sit on the bench, or turn out for the reserves in front of a handful of people, is terribly frustrating. Don't get me wrong. I don't expect a first team place as of right. But I do feel my experience could have been of benefit to the side.

"I would like to try my hand at



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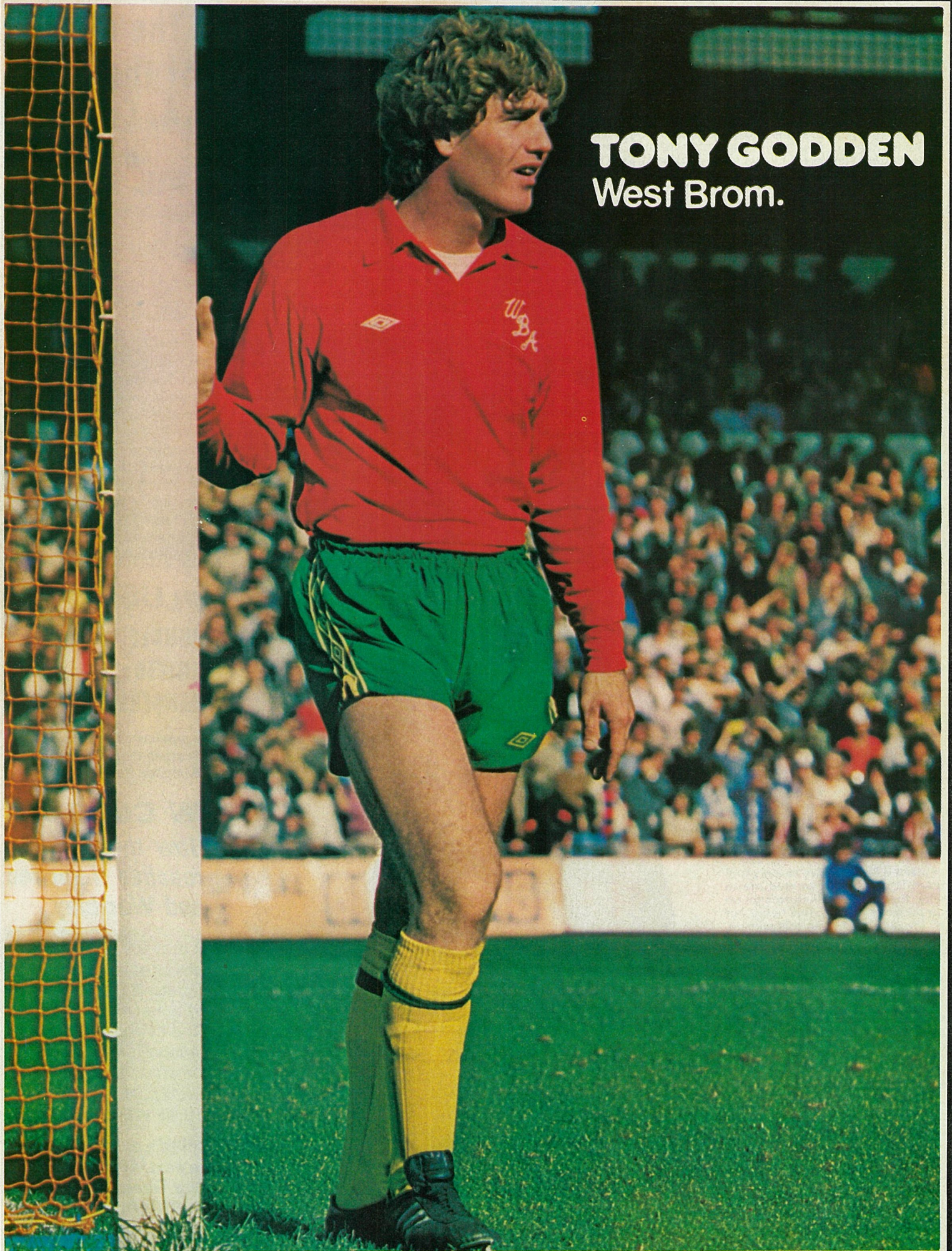
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